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WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1997

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EMMA THE OUTRAGEOUS

Nigella Lawson wonders why Currie is too hot to handle

PAGE 17

THE TIMES · THE SUNDAY TIMES
Portfolio
10 14 15 29
35 27 38 35

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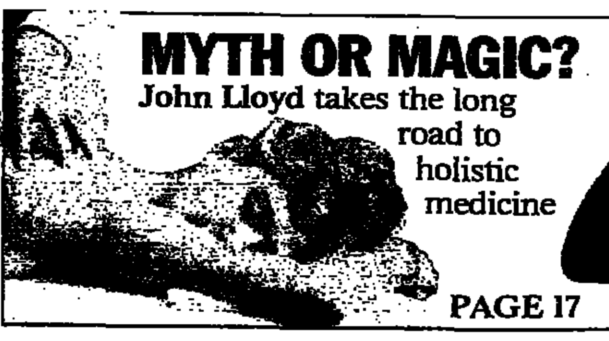
PAGE 32



MYTH OR MAGIC?

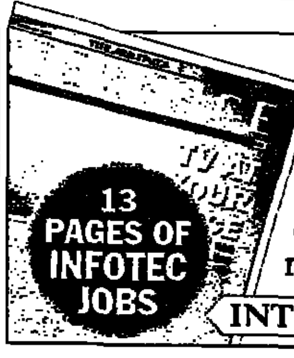
John Lloyd takes the long road to holistic medicine

PAGE 17

HOORAY FOR THE CLASS SYSTEM

Michael Gove on the joy of inequality

PAGE 20



13 PAGES OF INFOTEC JOBS

PLUS

How to switch on to TV's digital revolution

INTERFACE

Death penalty fears for colleague as Saudi court verdict is condemned

British nurse to be flogged over murder

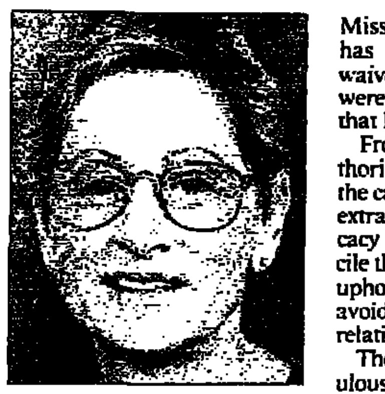
BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU, MICHAEL BINYON AND DANIEL McGRORY

A BRITISH nurse was sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years in jail by a Saudi court yesterday for being an accessory to the murder of a colleague. The verdict raised the prospect that her friend had been convicted of murder, which carries a mandatory death penalty.

The sentence on 31-year-old Lucille McLauchlan was immediately condemned by her family, the Government and human rights groups. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that he was deeply disturbed at the sentence, which was "wholly unacceptable in a modern world". He said the Government would put pressure on the Saudis not to carry out the flogging.

Neither McLauchlan nor her co-accused, Deborah Parry, 38, was allowed into the Al Khobar court for the half-hour hearing yesterday at which three judges ruled that McLauchlan should be lashed with a cane in batches of 25 "over a specified period".

British diplomats who were there said that Parry's name was not mentioned. But lawyers for the victim's family said that they had been told that she had been found guilty of murdering the Australian staff nurse Yvonne Gilford and would face the death penalty — although officials insisted that the sentence would not be carried out.



Gilford: stabbed, beaten and smothered

Lawyers were unable to visit the two women in the Damman Central Prison to tell them about the court's ruling yesterday, but a lawyer for McLauchlan said that they would probably have heard on the radio or from their guards. "They will obviously be devastated and sick with worry."

Miss Gilford, who was said to have run a usurous money-lending operation at the King Fahd military complex in Dhahran where all three worked, was bludgeoned, smothered and stabbed in her bedroom last December.

The two British nurses confessed to the killing, saying that their victim had gone at them with a knife. McLauchlan told police that she held Miss Gilford down and muffled her cries with a pillow while Parry stabbed her 13 times. But the nurses later retracted their confessions, claiming that they had been made under duress.

Under Saudi law, murder is punishable by beheading and only the nearest male relative of the victim has the right to the sentence being commuted. Miss Gilford's brother, Frank, has repeatedly refused to waive that right, but there were suggestions last night that he had now done so.

From the start, Saudi authorities have recognised that the case must be handled with extraordinary diplomatic delicacy as they sought to reconcile the conflicting demands of upholding Islamic justice and avoiding any new rupture in relations with the West.

The Saudis have been meticulous in ensuring that the nurses had as much access to lawyers as they would have been done had their case been tried in a Western secular court — lawyers do not normally appear for defendants in Saudi courts. The authorities also granted visas to the nurses' parents and kept the British Embassy informed.

To do more — such as allowing Western observers to the trial — would have compromised the nature of Islamic justice in the eyes of most Saudis. And yesterday's judgment was clearly intended to forestall any accusation that Saudi Arabia treats Westerners more leniently than its own citizens. The judges therefore had little alternative but to apply the normal sentence once the women were found guilty. This is, however, only the first stage in an appeal procedure that could take two years. Lawyers for McLauchlan have already told the court that they will appeal.

Deborah Parry is believed to have been convicted of murder; her accessory Lucille McLauchlan faces 500 lashes

McLauchlan's parents appeared outside their Dundee home yesterday to urge Tony Blair to apply "maximum pressure" on the Saudi authorities saying they found the court's decision absolutely unbelievable. "They have come to a verdict that can only have been reached on the strength of those forced confessions because there has not been one shred of evidence against either nurse in court. They have not had a trial."

Saudi sources said that McLauchlan was likely to serve only half her sentence, but there was no precedent for her to be transferred to a British jail. The lashes were likely to be inflicted over a period of months.

The Foreign Secretary, however, said that he was hopeful that the flogging might never be carried out. Mr Cook dismissed suggestions of a diplomatic row with Saudi Arabia over the case, saying: "We are not talking at all about the commercial relationship. We are trying to save a woman from getting these 500 lashes."

Amnesty International also joined the chorus of condemnation, saying: "Flogging is cruel and barbaric and it must not be allowed to happen. The victim is given time to recover then beaten again. They are scarred for life."

In the meantime, Parry's Saudi lawyer insisted that she would be spared because Miss Gilford's brother had agreed to waive the death penalty. Salah al-Hejailan said: "An agreement has been reached with Mr Gilford, signed by him and his lawyers, and signed also by the nurses. That agreement has some terms and conditions that we cannot disclose for the time being, but I must say that all of us are quite pleased and happy with the terms and conditions that have been signed finally after some negotiation in Australia."

Neither of the families nor the Foreign Office knew anything about the deal last night, but the Saudi Ambassador in London also dismissed suggestions that Parry, who comes from Alton, Hampshire, would be executed. Dr Ghazi Algosaibi also said that Mr Gilford had agreed a deal, and he pointed out that both women had three more avenues of appeal. "There will be no question of the death penalty being imposed at any point in the proceedings."

Saudi lawyers for the Gilford family were pleased. "The court has worked long and hard to reach these verdicts. It has been an honour to participate in seeing justice done."

Saudi murder case, pages 2, 3

INSIDE

Ashdown wants a free hand

Paddy Ashdown will today urge the Liberal Democrat conference in Eastbourne not to tie his hands over further links with Labour.

The Lib Dem leader will say that he intends to work more closely with Labour when that would benefit his own party, such as on the constitution, a single currency and Northern Ireland .... Page 10

£45,000 award for dyslexic

Pamela Phelps, 23, who left school with a reading age of seven, won damages of more than £45,000 from the London borough of Hillingdon, which failed to diagnose her dyslexia.

She said she hoped to become a computer programmer and would spend the money on her education and taking GCSEs .... Page 7

Cook provokes row over UN

Robin Cook got into a spat with a right-wing American senator after insisting that Washington should pay its debt of $1.5 billion to the United Nations "in full and on time".

A spokesman for Senator Jesse Helms described the Foreign Secretary's comment as "absolutely not helpful" .... Pages 14, 21

Algerian rebels butcher 85

Muslim rebels butchered at least 85 civilians in the suburbs of Algiers, according to security forces.

However, residents of Bentoumi-Bentalha said that up to 200 were burnt to death or had their throats cut by fundamentalists battling to overthrow the military-backed regime .... Page 12

Frosty first meeting for Unionists and Sinn Fein

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ULSTER Unionist Party leaders made history by sitting at the same conference table as Sinn Fein for the first time yesterday, but they emphatically rejected what Gerry Adams called his "hand of friendship".

David Trimble, the UUP's leader, did not shake the Sinn Fein president's hand, speak to him or communicate with him in any way during the long-awaited "Stormont showdown" — the two parties' first encounter at the multi-party peace talks.

He instead sat silently at the opposite corner of the large square table for 45 minutes while his fellow UUP MP, Ken Maginnis, read out a seven-page indictment challenging the British and Irish governments to expel Sinn Fein from the talks. He claimed Sinn Fein was inseparable from the IRA which had rejected the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence.

The UUP delegation walked out the moment Mr Maginnis finished. While Sinn Fein responded to the indictment inside the conference room Mr Trimble and Mr Maginnis held a press conference outside in which they denounced Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, as "unreconstructed murderers" and "godfathers of the terrorism that has wracked this province for the last 25 years".

Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness emerged an hour later and said the way the UUP had presented its indictment then "scampered out" to the media without waiting for Sinn Fein's reply showed the whole exercise was a "sham" and a "charade".

They said they could tolerate such conduct if that was the only way the Unionists could break their old taboo about talking to Sinn Fein, but the UUP now had to stop playacting and begin serious negotiations. This was "a matter of life or death", not soundbites, Mr Adams said. Dialogue was the only way forward.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, noted this was the first time leading Unionists, loyalists, nationalists and republicans had ever come together in the same room and called it "another step forward", but some commentators compared the meeting to that of James Craig, Northern Ireland's first prime minister, and Michael Collins, father of the IRA, in 1922. Describing that meeting, Churchill said the two men "glowered magnificently" at each other.

The two governments will almost certainly reject the UUP's indictment today, and Mr Trimble tacitly accepted as much. He insisted that the UUP would remain in the talks process but continue to spurn Sinn Fein.

He suggested it was possible for the UUP and the other parties to achieve a settlement with Sinn Fein's

Continued on page 2, col 8

Hague boost for women at polls

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

LOCAL Tory associations could be forced for the first time to include women on their shortlists when selecting parliamentary candidates under radical plans being considered by William Hague.

Although the Tory leader has ruled out the discredited, women-only shortlists once favoured by Labour, he has recognised that the party must look at ways of boosting the number of Tory women candidates. One option, employed by the Liberal Democrats, would require local associations to include at least one woman on their lists.

The introduction of positive discrimination in the selection process would amount to an unprecedented switch in Conservative policy and would anger grassroots activists who are protective of their independence to choose candidates without interference from Central Office. They would regard the move as a concession to political correctness.

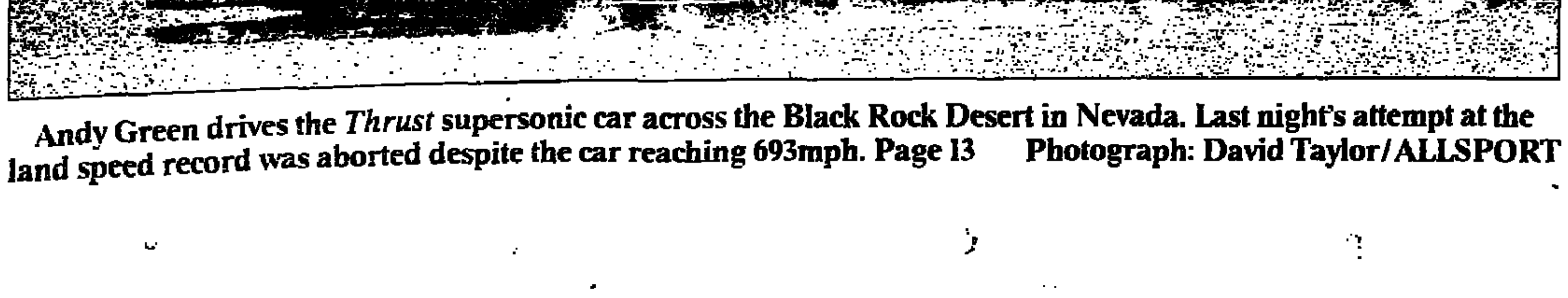
The proposals appear in the reform Green Paper, drawn up by Archie Norman, the Tory vice-chairman. It will be published at the party conference in Blackpool.

Senior Tory sources emphasised that a firm decision had not been made but acknowledged that some elements of positive discrimination were being considered. "This is the sort of thing the party needs to discuss," one source said.

They confirmed that women-only shortlists were not favoured. That former Labour policy, which prevented men representing some constituencies, was declared illegal when an industrial tribunal declared it amounted to sexual discrimination.

Although women form the majority of Tory party activists, they have traditionally balked at selecting women candidates. In 1992, only 63 Tory women candidates were picked, rising to 69 this year. In contrast, Labour fielded 138 women candidates in 1992 and 159 last May.

Computer glitch delays Briton's land speed record bid



Andy Green drives the *Thrust* supersonic car across the Black Rock Desert in Nevada. Last night's attempt at the land speed record was aborted despite the car reaching 693mph. Page 13 Photograph: David Taylor/ALLSPORT

Flying rodent

A BA flight from Johannesburg to London flight was cancelled after a stewardess saw what she thought was a rat on board .... Page 5

TV & RADIO 50, 51
WEATHER 26
CROSSWORDS 26, 52
LETTERS 21
OBITUARIES 23
SIMON JENKINS 20
ARTS 18, 19
CHESS & BRIDGE 48
COURT & SOCIAL 22
SPORT 45-50, 52
FASHION 16
LAW REPORT 41

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NEWS IN BRIEF

HIV immigrant sues council for housing

An illegal immigrant from Brazil who is HIV positive is to sue Brent council in northwest London for refusing to provide him with free housing and food. The man, who stayed in Britain after his visa ran out, is bringing the case after claiming that he was made destitute when his landlord evicted him and because he lost his job when he went into hospital.

The council has refused to provide the unnamed man with food and accommodation because he is not normally resident in the district and he is not entitled to social security benefits because he is an illegal immigrant. The outcome of the case, which will be heard at the High Court later this year, will decide whether other councils, particularly those in the capital, have to fund tourists who have overstayed their entry permit and declare themselve destitute. Both the Home Office and the Department of Health are aware of the case, which was originally taken up by a leading Aids charity. Both departments are supporting the council's efforts to resist the application.

BBC apologises to Irish

The producers of the soap opera *EastEnders* apologised after more than 150 callers complained to the BBC about the "stereotyped and prejudiced" representation of Irish life in an episode on Monday. It showed a trip by Pauline Fowler, played by Wendy Richard, to meet her long-lost half-sister Maggie in Ireland which one caller to an Irish radio station said showed the Irish as "dirty, drunk or backward".

Fines for idling engines

Motorists will be fined for allowing their car engines to idle unnecessarily under measures to reduce city-centre pollution. A one-year trial will begin next year in Birmingham, Bristol, Canterbury, Glasgow, Middlesbrough, Swansea and Westminster. Fixed penalty tickets of £20 — rising to £40 if not paid within 28 days — will be issued to drivers who refuse to switch off their engines.

Treasure law buried

The law of treasure trove that has governed the discovery of relics for 750 years was consigned to history at midnight. The Government claimed that new legislation — with fines for those not declaring a discovery within 14 days — would better protect finds and end confusion. Treasure now includes objects more than 300 years old and containing more than 10 per cent gold or silver. Finders may get rewards.

Dangerous restraint

A woman was restrained for up to 50 minutes using a technique that has since been challenged as dangerous, an inquest at York was told yesterday. Zoe Fairley, 21, was held down by the "prone restraint procedure" in a care home in the city by up to four social workers after she attempted to attack one of them in September 1995. They relaxed their grip only when she ceased struggling. The hearing continues.

Freight train derailed

Severe disruption to rail services was caused when a 70mph freight train was derailed, tearing down power lines and ripping up large sections of a commuter line. Eight out of 21 wagons left the track near Chelmsford, Essex, but nobody was injured. Bus services were provided between Chelmsford and Colchester and passengers to Liverpool Street have been told to expect delays for a couple of days.

Confused defendants baffled by court rules

No charges heard and 20 minutes to explain, writes **Daniel McGrory**

INSIDE THE COURT

THROUGHOUT their trial Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan sat at the back of the courtroom in Al Khobar bewildered as to what the evidence was against them.

In four months of hearings they were allowed to speak for only 20 minutes and that was to tell how their confessions were coerced by sexual and physical threats from their interrogators after they were stripped. They were never told what they were accused of as under Saudi law the charges are revealed only at the end along with the verdict and sentence. Reports were leaked to the local press by investigating officers hinting darkly about lesbian relationships and moneylending rackets at the King Fahd medical complex but neither suggestion was ever tested, let alone proved, in court.

Sensitive to outside criticism about the fairness of its opaque judiciary, the Saudis were determined to avoid the diplomatic rift that followed the 1980 television documentary *Death of a Princess*, which showed the execution of a Saudi royal for adultery.

Privately Saudi diplomats scorned endless speculation about the women being publically beheaded, and legal history was made by allowing a prominent Riyadh lawyer, Salah Al Hejailan, to speak on the women's behalf.

The defence team seized on this opportunity to complain to King Fahd that they were never allowed to contest what they describe as "flawed evidence". Instead the three judges merely studied the reports submitted by the investigation team.

The nurses' families are disappointed that assurances were not kept that the women would be able to have their say in court. Mrs Anne McLauchlan, Lucille's mother, said "That didn't happen. The girls did not have a fair trial. They did not have any sort of trial at all.

"The families know these girls, they cherish life and could not take it away like this." Miss Parry's sister, Sandra Ashbee, said: "I don't recognise the Deborah the Saudis portray. No one is more caring." No forensic evidence was ever produced proving either of the women were in Miss Gilford's bedroom on the night of December 11 when the 55-year-old staff nurse was beaten, smothered and stabbed 13 times.

The police have never disclosed the precise motive for the killing on December 11. They hinted that Yvonne Gilford misused her position as the senior nurse to withhold salary cheques from her staff thereby forcing them to borrow money from her at exorbitant rates. This has never been confirmed.

At the time of her death she was considering lending a Filipino nurse nearly £3,000. Senior officers later leaked a report to a leading Saudi newspaper that Miss Gilford and Parry were involved in a lesbian relationship which the Briton wanted to end.

The only thing that all three families involved in this murder are agreed on is that none of the women was a lesbian. Detectives allege that Parry went to Miss Gilford's bedroom where a row began. As the argument became more heated they were joined by McLauchlan.

All three women were in the nightclothes and in their disputed confessions one admitted to hitting Miss Gilford with a teapot. Police stressed how a broken teapot was found in the room.

Miss Gilford is said to have run to her kitchen where she produced a knife to defend herself. The two Britons are said to have forced her on to her bed where McLauchlan held a pillow over her face to stifle her cries while Parry stabbed her 13 times.

The most damning evidence against the Britons was the allegation that police followed the pair while they visited the Al Khobar shopping complex and used Miss Gilford's cash card. The card was used for a third successive day at the Saudi National Bank and there were reports that at least one transaction was caught on security videos.

The womens' lawyers insist there never was a video because Saudi banks are not equipped with such technology, due to the sensitivity of photographing women. Parry is alleged at this time to have transfered 2000 Saudi Riyals (£354) to her account in Alton, Hanpshire. She insists this was money from her savings. McLauchlan alleges the police planted the card in her handbag.

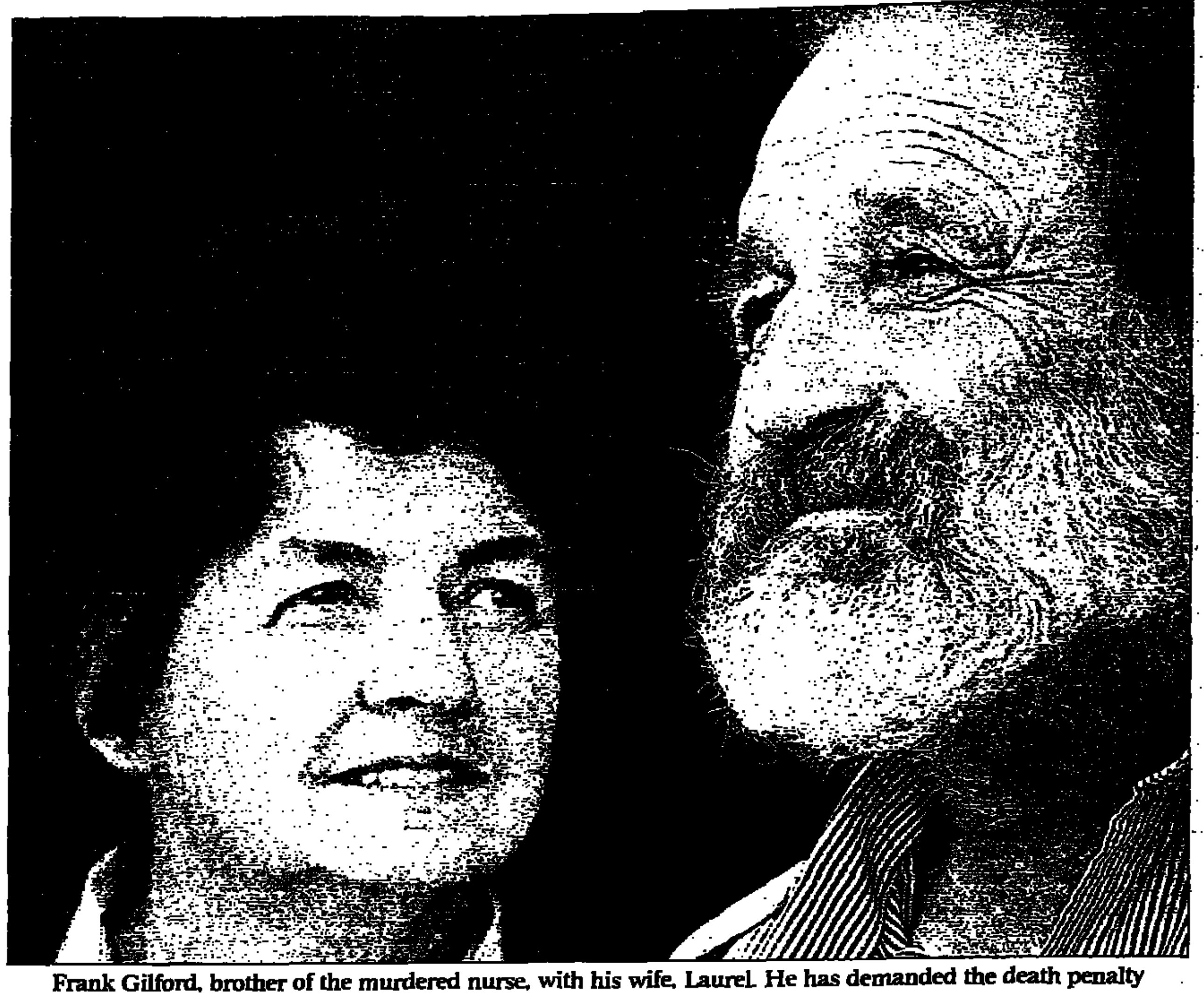
The defence argue other key questions remain unanswered such as why Miss Gilford's bedroom window was open when the air conditioning was on and why security guards never heard cries for help or the sound of a fight.

Compound guards were known to operate their own moneylending scheme and had warned Miss Gilford not to jeopardise their lucrative sideline. They are said to have forced nurses from the Far East into prostitution to pay back their debts.

Five security guards were arrested days before the two Britons.

All were sacked and one is thought to be related to a member of the team who obtained the confessions from the nurses.

LEON MEAD/REUTERS



Frank Gilford, brother of the murdered nurse, with his wife, Laurel. He has demanded the death penalty

Dead woman was 'bullying tyrant'

THE VICTIM

MANY of Yvonne Gilford's colleagues in Dhahran regarded her with fear and loathing (Daniel McGrory writes). They disputed the image of the 55-year-old staff nurse as having sacrificed her personal life for her career and described her as a tyrant and a bully.

Lawyers for the two Britons spoke to nurses at the King Fahd complex, who told how Miss Gilford withheld their pay cheques so that she might lend them money at exorbitant interest rates, and had demanded sex from some. Days before her death she had confided to a Western colleague that she was scared of some of the security men who guarded the King Fahd complex and ran similar money-lending schemes. Miss Gilford said that she had been threatened by the men.

Brought up on a remote sheep farm in Yunta, 250 miles north of Adelaide, Miss Gilford began nursing in Melbourne and New Zealand before moving to England for five years and then spending 20 years in South Africa. A former colleague, Gay Wiggill, matron of the Brenthurst Clinic in Johannesburg, described her as "an absolutely dedicated nurse who gave her life to her work".

Her only meaningful relationship was in South Africa with Owen Joyce, a businessman. He said they were partners for more than 20 years. He scorned suggestions that Miss Gilford was a lesbian.

From the moment he heard about Miss Gilford's murder, her brother Frank, 59, has insisted he should have the final say on how her killers should be punished. For months he has been implacable in his demand that he would never show clemency, despite appeals from the Saudis and a letter from the two British nurses. The taxi driver from Jamestown, South Australia, said: "Only death will avenge Yvonne."

Last night Mr Gilford was silent. He is subject to a temporary injunction that prevents him commenting publicly on the case.

Labour hopes Glasgow expulsions will put an end to Scottish sleaze

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE entire leadership of Glasgow City Council faces suspension and four senior councillors are likely to be expelled when Labour publishes the findings of its "votes for trips" inquiry today.

The party's National Executive Committee is expected to take tough action to show Tony Blair's determination to wipe out what is viewed as "old" Labour sleaze in the west of Scotland, party sources say.

Five senior council figures face suspension. They are understood to be Pat Lally, the Lord Provost, Alex Mosson, Deputy Lord Provost, depute leader Gordon Macdiarmid, Jimmy Mutter, the parks and recreation convener, and Robert Gould, council leader, who provoked the original investigation by claiming in February that some of his party colleagues traded political support for trips.

The inquiry team began by looking at allegations of "a culture of patronage" which had grown out of tensions over the merger last year of Strathclyde region and Glasgow city. Councillors were said to have exchanged favours for votes, indulged in verbal harassment and intimidation at meetings, and enjoyed chauffeur-driven cars and foreign travel on generous expenses.

Suspension means that the councillors will remain party members but are banned from holding office. The four councillors facing expulsion are believed to be Deirdre Gaughan, sub-convener of the licensing board, Elaine Smith, a sub-convener with special responsibilities for youth on the policy and resources committee, Heather Ritchie and Jim Sharkey. Three other unnamed councillors are still being questioned and further details on the action to be taken against them will be disclosed today.

Everyone on the list, prepared by a team of five investigators from London and Scotland, headed by Irene Murfin, the party's national constitutional officer, will be de-selected and therefore unable to stand in the next council elections.

The 12-page report is also expected to recommend that a new panel be established to vet all expense trips by councillors outside the city boundary, even to Edinburgh or Paisley, and that the Labour Party headquarters in Scotland should introduce a list of candidates for the council elections in two years time. Usually candidates are selected by the party in the local council ward. A review of the Lord Provost's duties and responsibilities aimed at making him more accountable, and a stricter interpretation of the rules governing declarations of interest are also likely to be recommended.

The report concludes: "Of particular note is the general acceptance of poor standards of behaviour and of the failure of the group leadership to set an example of consistently high standards, of personal and corporate responsibility and discipline."

The allegations range from mis-use of position, bending party rules, and intimidation of council employees. It is believed that Mr Gould might be disciplined for bringing the party into disrepute by making the allegations public.

"This is the toughest action we have ever taken against a local authority in Scotland," a party source said yesterday. "The Labour Party is entitled to expect total commitment to its rules, constitution, aims and principles in all circumstances. The evidence received points to a number of councillors departing from acceptable and requisite standards."

Neither Mr Lally, Mr Gould or Mr Mosson was prepared to comment yesterday. Mr Lally's post as Lord Provost is non-political and therefore Labour does not have the power to take it away. One source said: "New standing orders would have to be introduced by the council for that to happen."

Unionists

Continued from page 1

participation. "We are not going to shirk our responsibilities. We are not going to leave these terrorists in the box seat with Unionism marginalised," he said.

The two governments are also hoping for the passage today of a procedural motion which would at long last allow full-scale negotiations to begin, but that depends on the UUP's co-operation.

Mr Maginnis's indictment consisted not only of republican statements linking Sinn Fein's negotiators to the IRA, but of statements to the same effect by the two governments. He claimed the IRA's disavowal of the Mitchell principles showed it was still pursuing its "Armalite and ballot box" strategy, and said the Labour government was now on trial for having "elevated an evil mafia to a status that would shame any other country in Western Europe".

Seeking to pre-empt the UUP's attack the Sinn Fein delegation had arrived in the morning with half a dozen Catholics whose relatives had been killed by loyalist paramilitaries. They accused Mr Trimble of hypocrisy for working with the political representatives of those loyalist paramilitaries, but Mr Trimble insisted there was "no equivalence" because the loyalists had expressed their remorse in 1994, observed a ceasefire since, and "paid their debt to society".

Challenged to express remorse for republican killings, Mr Adams replied: "Of course I am sorry. Of course I am remorseful. Of course we are seeking to put the failures of the past behind us."

Couple win justice in the long run

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A COUPLE who turned to Europe to complain that the English courts took too long to settle their dispute won a judgment in their favour yesterday — but found that justice Strasbourg-style grinds even more slowly than in England.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Britain was in breach of the couple's human rights for taking too long to settle their dispute on legal costs. But, at four years and six months, the European court took four months longer to resolve Geoffrey and Margaret Robins's case than did the English courts.

Britain, the judges said, had violated the European Convention on Human Rights which states that all stages of legal proceedings for the determination of civil rights and obligations must be resolved in a "reasonable" time.

Mr and Mrs Robins, who live in London and Crediton, Devon, lost their legal dispute with neighbours over sewerage in a judgment on May 1, 1991, but then faced a battle over a claim against them for costs. The whole process ended in dismissal of their appeal against costs on July 19, 1995, when they were ordered to pay £10,599. The costs come out of the legal aid fund.

Yesterday's judgment said social security officials had wasted ten months by wrongly believing that the couple had separated, and the British authorities had done nothing for a further 16 months, causing an unreasonable delay.

Yesterday Mrs Robins, a teacher in London, said she did not blame the Strasbourg system for its delays. "Part of the reason is that I did this case all on my own until the very end, when the court rules require you to have a lawyer."

A spokesman for the European court said reforms were on the way.

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Relatives claim Saudis lied about a fair trial

BY LIN JENKINS
AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE FAMILIES

THE families of the two British nurses were united last night in their condemnation of the Saudi authorities, which they accuse of breaking a promise that the women would receive a fair trial.

Stan McLauchlan, Lucille's father, showed his indignation when he appeared hand in hand with his wife Ann at the front door of their home in Dundee. He said that Saudi diplomats in Britain had given them repeated assurances that the women's confessions, which the nurses say were coerced from them, would be ignored by the courts.

Instead, he said, the confessions were all the three Islamic judges had studied before reaching their verdicts. At times, he appeared close to losing his temper as he faced the cameras and condemned the sentence of 500 lashes for his 31-year-old daughter.

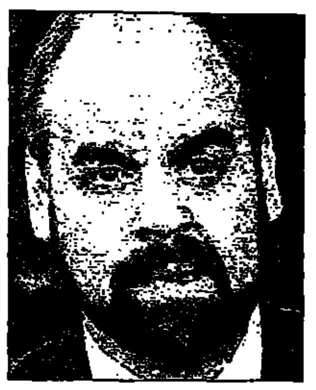
"This is Saudi justice for you," he said. "Lucille will hear about this listening to the radio in her prison cell. This says everything about the Saudi system."

Neither of the families appeared to know anything about a reported "deal" with Frank Gilford, the brother of the murder victim, to waive his demands for the maximum punishment for both women.

Mr McLauchlan called on the Government to honour a pre-election pledge to put human rights at the top of its political agenda and urgently intervene in the case. His wife kept her head bowed as Mr McLauchlan said: "We find this decision absolutely unbelievable. We cannot understand it for the simple reason that not one shred of evidence has been presented against either of the nurses in court.

"All the assurances that we received from the Saudi ambassador earlier this year, that the nurses would receive a fair trial, that the prosecution would have to prove its case against them and that the confessions, because they were obtained through sexual and physical abuse, would be set aside. They have come to a verdict and it can only have been reached on the strength of these flawed confessions."

Mr McLauchlan, a former union convenor at the Caledon shipyard in Dundee, said he had received news of his daughter's conviction by telephone yesterday.


Jonathan Ashby: fears for his sister-in-law

Deborah Parry's family were last night urgently trying to contact her lawyers and British diplomats in the kingdom after reports that she faced the death penalty. Her brother-in-law, Jonathan Ashbee, left his office as soon as he heard that Deborah was to be beheaded and spent the afternoon making frantic telephone calls.

He appeared relieved by assurances from the Foreign Office that his sister-in-law had yet to be officially sentenced but was clearly concerned that, as the judges were relying on their "forced confessions", that the court might yet demand the death penalty.

He also knew nothing about the reported deal with Mr Gilford to waive the death penalty. He said that he and his wife Sandra, Deborah's younger sister, were "amazed and absolutely stunned" that Miss McLauchlan had been sentenced to eight years and 500 lashes after all the assurances from the Saudi authorities that they would get a fair trial. He said that evidence gathered by the family which he was not yet prepared to release would prove them innocent. He was also anxious that the women's lawyers should see them today to assure them that their legal fight was not yet over.

He said the suggestion from the Saudi Ambassador to London that the victim's brother, Frank Gilford, had waived the right to demand the death penalty for her killers was, he thought, unlikely.

"I refer you to the things he said before when he said there would be a fair trial and the verdict would be based on evidence in court and the confessions would not be replied upon. Perhaps that sheds the best light on what he said."

Mr Ashbee said he was concerned how these reports would affect his children. "We have four small children and they are very frightened."

☐ *The damage done by 20 lashes of the cane when administered in the way ordained in Arab countries, with the flogger's arm held tightly against his chest so as to keep the Koran tucked in his armpits, would be unlikely to cause lasting physical disability (Dr Thomas Stuttaford writes).*

The victim would suffer severe bruising, and the soft skin of a woman might even bleed, but she would not be in danger of the hypovolaemic shock which was the cause of death and lasting renal and cerebral damage in those flogged in earlier centuries.

The punishment inflicted on the nurse will be as much psychological as physical. She will know that even after she has lived through any particular session, the whole process will be repeated again many times.

Ann McLaughlan, fighting back tears, listens outside her home in Dundee yesterday as her husband Stan angrily criticises Saudi diplomats in Britain

Heat and filth take their toll on health

THE PRISON

AN IMMEDIATE worry for the two families is whether the women can survive the stifling heat and insanitary prison conditions during the months of legal wrangling they must now endure.

Both are suffering from dysentery and have pleaded with British diplomats to get them moved from their overcrowded cells in the Damman Central Prison. The heat, poor food and overflowing lavatories in the women's wing have taken their toll on their failing health.

Deborah Parry has been given psychiatric help for depression after inmates said that she would wake in the night screaming.

Their families, who have recently visited them, described how the women had to wash by pouring a basin of water on themselves over open sewers. The lavatories were choked with soiled nappies, as many of the inmates had their infants with them.

The only Westerners in the prison have to share their cramped and cockroach-infested cell with up to ten others.

Jonathan Ashbee, Parry's brother-in-law, said: "The stench is unbearable. I don't think they can stand much more. Their resistance has been weakened already and I'm afraid they will get something very serious."

Pair sought refuge from their problems of life in Britain

THE WOMEN

BY their own admission, Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan went to work at the King Fahd Military Hospital in Dhahran to escape from their problems in Britain.

Deborah Parry, 38, had undergone psychiatric treatment after the sudden deaths of both her parents and of her brother. Her personal relationships had failed and she told her sister that she felt driven to leave Britain to retain her sanity.

At the hospital, Parry quickly befriended Lucille McLauchlan, 31, who was there to escape the disgrace of her blighted career in Scotland. The tax-free salary was higher than they could earn as nurses in Britain. Their companionship was founded on seeking refuge within the strict confines of Saudi society.

The isolation, in a segregated compound, suited Parry as she grieved over a series of family tragedies. In 1979 her 16-year-old brother Keith died in a motorcycle accident just as she was beginning her training. Within weeks, her mother drowned on a boating trip during a holiday that Parry had persuaded her to take to help her recover from Keith's death.

Determined to pursue her career, Parry worked in Oxford and then Worcester. In 1987 her father died from a heart attack, and her brother-in-law died from a brain haemorrhage.

After turning to bereavement counsellors, Deborah Parry decided to leave Britain, and in 1993 started work at the King Fahd Hospital where she was so highly regarded that she was entrusted to the long-term nursing care of a member of the Saudi royal family.

Two years later, she returned to Hampshire, and then helped establish a pioneering unit for post-operative care as a staff nurse at the Kingston Hospital in Surrey where colleagues found her "dedicated, and trustworthy".

Allegations that emerged during the trial that Parry had lesbian inclinations have been vehemently denied. Her sister said that she had ended a 12-month relationship with a businessman before returning to the Middle East, and that that had followed a 12-year friendship with another man.

Parry blamed the end of her relationship on her continuing trauma over her family. In September 1996 she returned to the King Fahd complex.

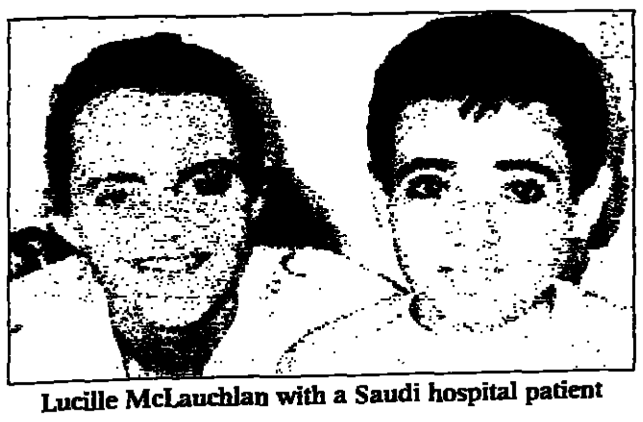
McLauchlan's family similarly dismissed the suggestion that she had lesbian inclinations that might be linked to the death of Yvonne Gilford, pointing out that Lucille had been engaged for five years and hoped to save some of her Saudi salary for her wedding.

McLauchlan, born in Dundee, had a single-minded ambition become a nurse. After leaving school at 17 she began work as an auxiliary nurse at Dundee's Victoria Hospital for the terminally ill. A year later she became a state-enrolled nurse.

A colleague at Dundee's King's Cross Hospital recalls Miss McLauchlan as an ebullient, popular and even-tempered colleague who volunteered to work on the Aids ward. She began a petition to keep the ward open.

McLauchlan was forced to leave King's Cross after being accused of stealing a credit card from a terminally ill patient and swindling him out of £1,740. She denied the charge but was due to appear in a Dundee court weeks after her arrest in Saudi Arabia.

McLauchlan had told her fiancé and her parents that Dhahran offered a lucrative escape. Her mother said: "I don't recognise the person the Saudis are describing. Lucille protects life, not takes it."


Lucille McLauchlan with a Saudi hospital patient

Defence contracts worth billions could be at risk

TRADE

THE sentencing of the two nurses in Saudi Arabia is the latest in a series of incidents over the past 20 years which have had the potential for damaging the close ties between the British and Saudi Arabian Governments.

The public execution in 1978 of a Saudi princess and her commoner husband, who had breached Islamic law by marrying in secret after an illicit love affair, was the first and most controversial event that threatened diplomatic relations. In April 1980 an ATV documentary called *Death of a Princess* — the story of Princess Misha'al, who was executed by gunfire while her lover was beheaded, caused a serious breach.

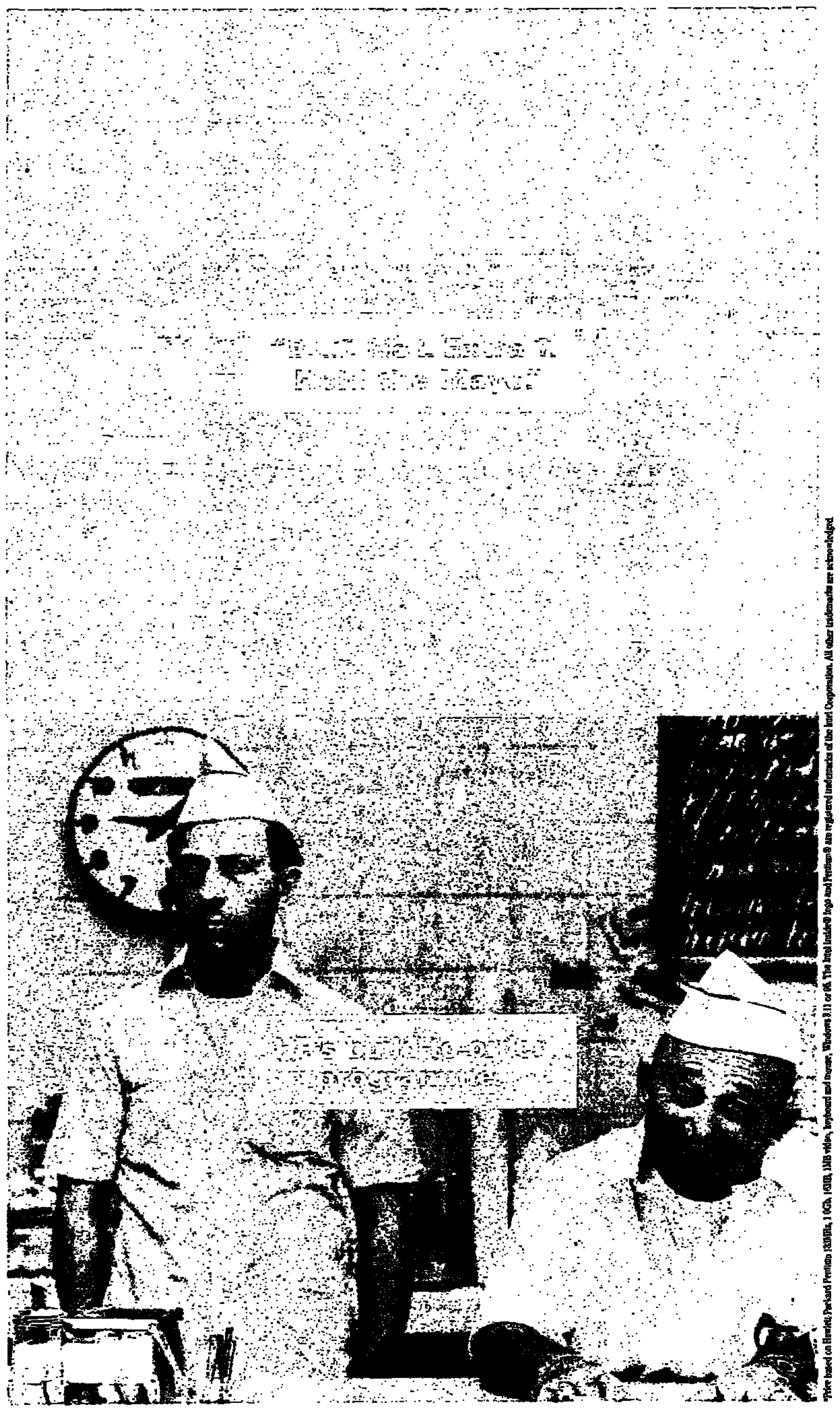
British companies lost export orders because of the Saudi Royal Family's outrage and the implied criticism of Islamic justice. James Craig, the British Ambassador, was withdrawn at the request of the Saudi Government. It took all the diplomatic skills of Lord Carrington, then Foreign Secretary, to prevent the formal severing of relations.

The film highlighted the sensitivities behind a burgeoning trade partnership. Huge exports, not least in the defence field with the £20 billion al-Yamamah contract, are at stake.

The same year as the documentary, a British surgeon and his wife, Richard and Penelope Arnot, were sentenced to a public flogging for alcohol offences at a party, during which Helen Smith, a British nurse, and her Dutch boyfriend fell over a balcony to their deaths. Diplomatic intervention led to their release and the prevention of their flogging.

The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and the agreement between King Fahd and the Americans for a United States-led coalition force based in Saudi Arabia, further cemented the close ties between London and Jeddah. The most recent straining of relations with the Saudis concerned the activities of Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi dissident in exile. A number of defence contracts were put at risk until the Government decided to expel him to Dominica, although his departure was suspended for four years.

Last year British exports to Saudi Arabia were worth nearly £2.5 billion, including the al-Yamamah deal which on average is valued at about £2 billion a year. Imports from Saudi Arabia for 1996 totalled £752 million. Exports to Saudi Arabia since January have shown a 50 per cent increase up to June. The total figure for 1997 is expected to be about £3 billion.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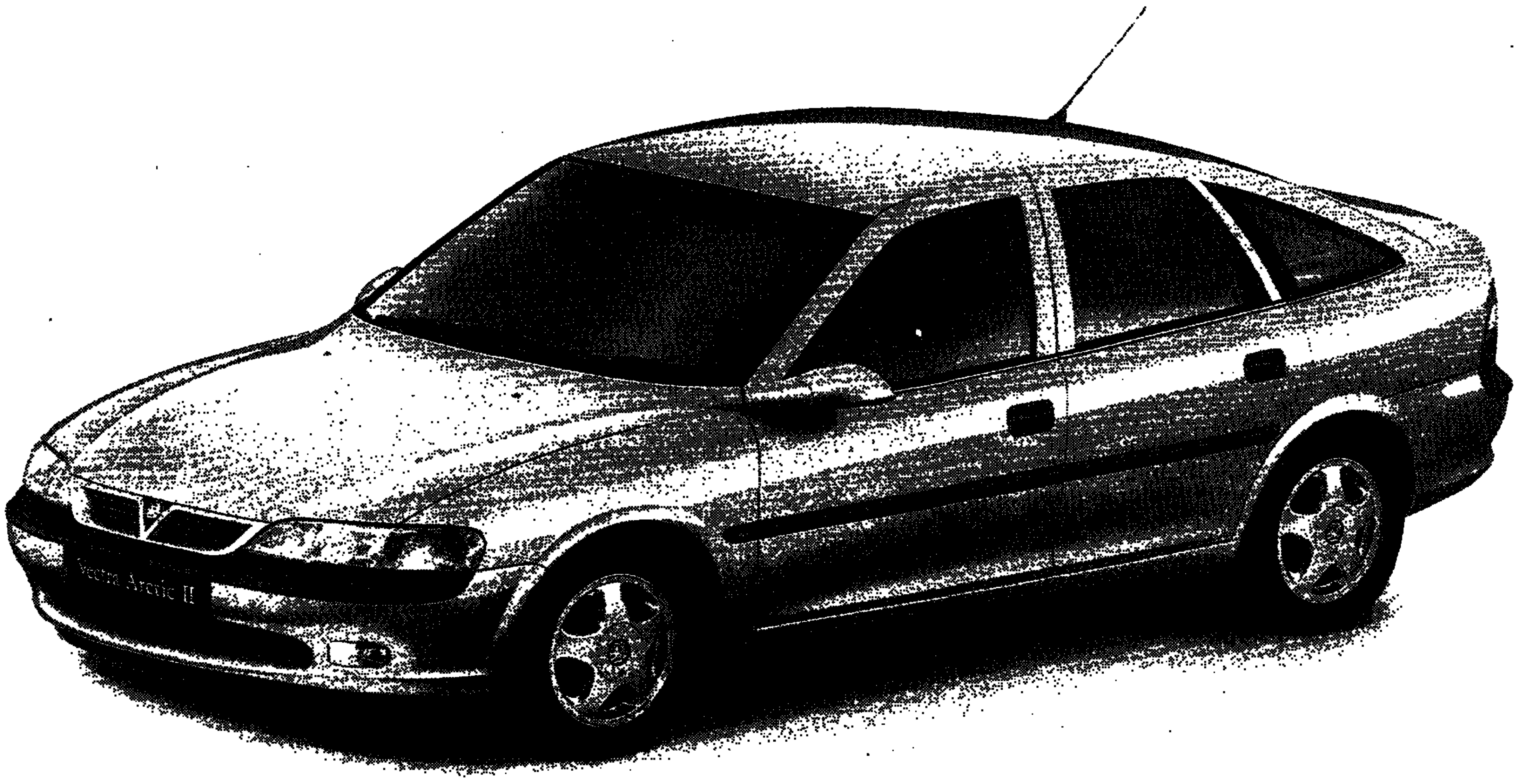

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هكذا من الاعل

Stowaway survives leap into treacherous seas

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A STOWAWAY who leapt overboard after being caught on a banana boat from the Bahamas was found hiding yesterday on a tiny island in the Bristol Channel. His brother is feared to have drowned.

Coastguards said that the survivor was lucky to be alive after swimming for half the night in fierce currents to reach Flat Holm, a rocky outcrop three miles off the South Wales coast. He was spotted by a warden of the nature reserve after he had crawled ashore exhausted early yesterday.

Police were making further searches of the island in case his brother, who jumped with him, had made it ashore. Coastguards who spent the night searching were convinced at first that both had drowned in the Bristol Channel, which has one of the fastest tides in the world.

The stowaway was naked when he struggled on to the island, which is about a mile round and is home to five wardens and thousands of sea birds. Kevin Hogan, project organiser of the Flat Holm nature reserve, said: "It was an amazing escape by any standards. He told us he spent at least four hours in the water and he is very lucky to be alive. The ship would have been at least a mile away from us and the currents are very strong indeed."

The brothers, in their twenties and from the Dominican Republic, had stowed away on the 18,000-tonne *Prince of Tides* sailing from the Bahamas to Newport, South Wales. They were discovered during the six-day voyage by ship's officers, who locked them in a cabin.

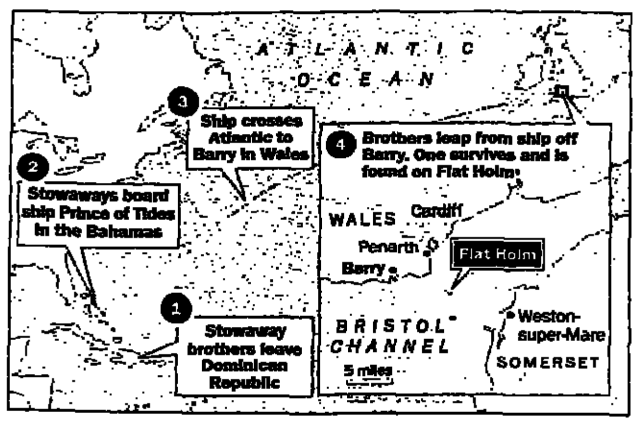
On Monday evening the master of the cargo ship, which had moored a mile and a half off Barry, radioed to shore asking immigration officers to collect the stowaways. The officers arrived to find the brothers had forced a porthole and leapt into the sea.

They were assumed to have swum towards the lighthouse on Flat Holm. Coastguards who searched the shoreline at dawn yesterday found no trace of the pair. At 11am the warden, Elizabeth Robinson, spotted the survivor hiding in a former Victorian isolation hospital for cholera cases.

Mr Hogan said: "He had found an old boiler suit to dress himself in, but was clearly in a very poor state. He had injured a knee and was very weak. We brought him into the farmhouse to give him some tomato soup and some bread. He was very grateful and glad for our help."

The man, who would not give his name, spoke a little English but used his native Spanish to thank the five workers. Mr Hogan said: "He said he hadn't seen his brother since they went into the water and that he had been swimming for about four hours. He seemed like a nice young chap and was in good spirits after having something to eat and drink."

The stowaway was taken off by helicopter for interview by police and immigration officers at Barry police station. A police spokesman said: "He has been examined by a doctor and is in good health."


ATLANTIC
OCEAN
1 Stowaway brothers leave Dominican Republic
2 Stowaways board ship Prince of Tides in the Bahamas
3 Ship crosses Atlantic to Barry in Wales
4 Brothers leap from ship off Barry. One survives and is found on Flat Holm
WALES
Cardiff
Penarth
Barry
Flat Holm
BRISTOL CHANNEL
Weston-super-Mare
SOMERSET
5 miles

JEFF J MITCHELL

The son of the 1960s singer Donovan married a Scottish model on the banks of Loch Lomond yesterday. The wedding of Donovan Leitch, clad in a red kilt which he said was the family tartan, and Kirsty Hume took place at St Mackessog's Church, Luss

Children sue over mother's Pill death

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO children are seeking £50,000 damages from a drugs company over the death of their mother after she had taken the Pill.

Through their father, Brian Merrick, the children, Aaran, 9, and Daniel, 7, are suing Schering Health Care under the Fatal Accidents Act, 1976. The company makes Femodene, one of the brands of contraceptive that were said by the Department of Health two years ago to carry increased risks of thrombosis and blood clots.

The family, from Chester, claims that Monica Williams died in 1993, aged 24, as a result of the company's negligence and that it did not give adequate advice and warning about the contraceptive.

A spokesman for Schering said: "The company will defend itself and its oral contraceptive products, which are well tolerated and used effectively by millions of women, both in the United Kingdom and around the world, against any litigation that may occur."

Rat in the aisle forces BA to cancel flight out of Africa

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

MORE than 200 British Airways passengers were stranded in Johannesburg yesterday when their overnight flight to London was cancelled after a stewardess spotted what she thought was a rat running down the aisle.

The rat — or possibly mouse — was seen while the aircraft was being cleaned after it had arrived in Johannesburg from Gaborone, the capital of neighbouring Botswana. British Airways said yesterday that the delay was inevitable after BA staff failed to locate the rodent.

According to one of the passengers on flight BA 054, they were initially told that the plane had been late leaving Gaborone and then informed in two subsequent announcements that there were problems with the "catering arrangements" before the flight was finally cancelled about 15 minutes after midnight yesterday morning, more than two hours after the scheduled departure time. Until yesterday afternoon there was no official mention of the rodent.

Patrick Kirwan, 27, a British businessman, said: "At around midnight, I went to the BA business class lounge to find out what was going on and I bumped into the flight captain. He told me there was a rat on board, and certain members of the crew had refused to fly. He said they were trying to locate the rat but so far they had had no success.

"I was horrified,' Mr Kirwan continued. "I asked whether the flight would still take off and he replied that he thought it doubtful. About 15 minutes later the flight was cancelled but no mention was made of the rat. It's ridiculous. I did not expect this from the world's favourite airline. People were very angry."

BA defended its decision to cancel the flight on the grounds that the aircraft had to be fumigated and technical checks carried out in case the rodent had chewed through any wiring. "As always our passengers are the first priority," a BA statement said.

The BA statement said: "Wherever possible, passengers with onward connections were rebooked on other flights. Other passengers were accommodated at local hotels."

Rats, mice and other sharp-toothed rodents greatly concern airline health and safety officials. They can gnaw through an electrical cable or control wire in seconds and are capable of spreading disease from one country to another. However, a combination of rapid turnaround times at airports, few obvious ways for rodents to smuggle themselves on board and the introduction of metal, rat-proof containers in which to store food and perishables appears to be deterring them.

Officials from Hillingdon Borough Council, whose Environmental Health Department is responsible for ensuring that Heathrow is kept free of diseases and animal infestations, are called out five or six times a year to deal with rats or mice on board and aircraft — usually spotted in a cargo hold by loaders. "When that happens, the aircraft must be fumigated with methyl bromide, an organic compound which can also be used as a fire extinguisher," said a Hillingdon spokesman.

Most passengers on the BA flight were taken to Johannesburg airport's Holiday Inn and were due to fly to London last night, 24 hours late. They were allowed to make one local call and one brief international call free of charge, but permitted no hard liquor. "After that, we could have done with a stiff drink," one passenger remarked.

Dracula gets stake in the Irish mail

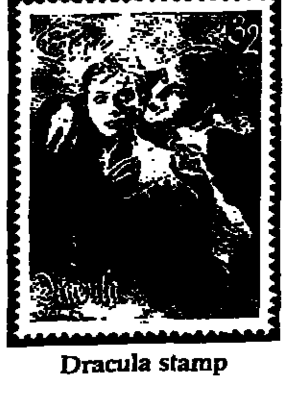
BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

STAMPS depicting Dracula in ghoulish poses go on sale in Ireland next week to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth in Ireland of Bram Stoker, who created the vampire count.

The four stamps form part of an international "horror" collection and depict him rising from his coffin; preparing to bite the neck of his unsuspecting victim, Lucy Westenra; surrounded by bats in his Transylvanian castle; and hiding in the woods where a bright-eyed wolf lurks in the background.

Dracula is the most famous book written by Stoker who, though he spent most of his life in England, was born in Clontarf, a coastal town north of Dublin city centre, where seminars are held every summer to celebrate his work.

The Royal Mail, Canada Post and the United States Post will also next week publish stamps of ghosts and ghouls. The Royal Mail collection includes depictions of Frankenstein's monster, Jekyll and Hyde, the hound of the Baskervilles and Dracula.



Dracula stamp

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Code of practice to regulate sale of DIY gene tests

Firms could face blacklisting if they fail to follow rules over advice to patients, writes Nigel Hawkes

COMPANIES which offer genetic tests directly to the public could be blacklisted if they fail to follow proper procedures.

The warning came yesterday from a government committee which has written a code of practice for genetic tests sold "over the counter" or by mail order. So far no abuses had been detected and only two companies were known to offer such services, said Marcus Pembrey of the Institute of Child Health in London, chairman of the subgroup which drew up the code.

Professor Pembrey said that some tests would be unlikely to gain the committee's approval. "If somebody told us they were planning to offer tests for the breast cancer susceptibility gene BRCA1, we would have to think very hard," he said. "The danger is that it would be used by women who were secretly worried about breast cancer but hadn't told anybody and had the test and got the answer they didn't want." Such information, in the absence of medical advice and counselling, could be very disturbing, he said. However, the tests offered so far pose less of a dilemma because they are limited to advising couples about their risk of having children with cystic fibrosis.

The code outlined by the sub-group of the Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing is voluntary. The only sanction for those ignoring it is blacklisting in the annual reports of the committee, but Professor Pembrey believes that is enough. "It would be even more difficult to devise an effective statutory system," he said.

The code, which was yesterday welcomed by Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, lays down standards for confidentiality and good laboratory practice and says that all those buying tests should be entitled to consultations before and after the test to ensure that they understand it and its implications. Tests should not be sold to people under 16. Only tests that are backed with sound clinical data will be approved and a copy of the results should normally be sent to the buyer's GP, although this is not obligatory.

Professor Pembrey said that he expected the private services to be centred around tests for inherited recessive disorders, such as cystic fibrosis. Much more complex ethical issues are raised by tests *that indicate an increased risk* of a life-threatening disease such as cancer, diabetes or heart disease. Such tests exist, but need careful explanation if the patient is not to be alarmed or falsely reassured. A network of regional genetic centres provides testing paid for by the National Health Service, and the bulk of people requesting tests will take this route.

In America, private genetic testing is much further advanced but doctors are beginning to voice concern. One study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in March, showed that a laboratory in North Carolina failed to offer proper counselling before testing people for a colon cancer gene, and gave incorrect interpretations of the results in nearly one third of the cases.

Dr Francis Giardello, of Johns Hopkins University, who criticised the tests, said that they showed the potential dangers of allowing tests to become widely available before doctors were properly trained to use them.

Leading article, page 21

Screen yourself by mail order

By Stephen Farrell

PRIVATE genetic testing is provided by two private companies in Britain, University Diagnostics and the Leeds Ante-Natal Screening Service.

Both offer mail-order screening kits for cystic fibrosis, the hereditary lung and digestive disease which usually kills its victims within 25 years. Customers are attracted by advertisements and brochures in doctors' surgeries.

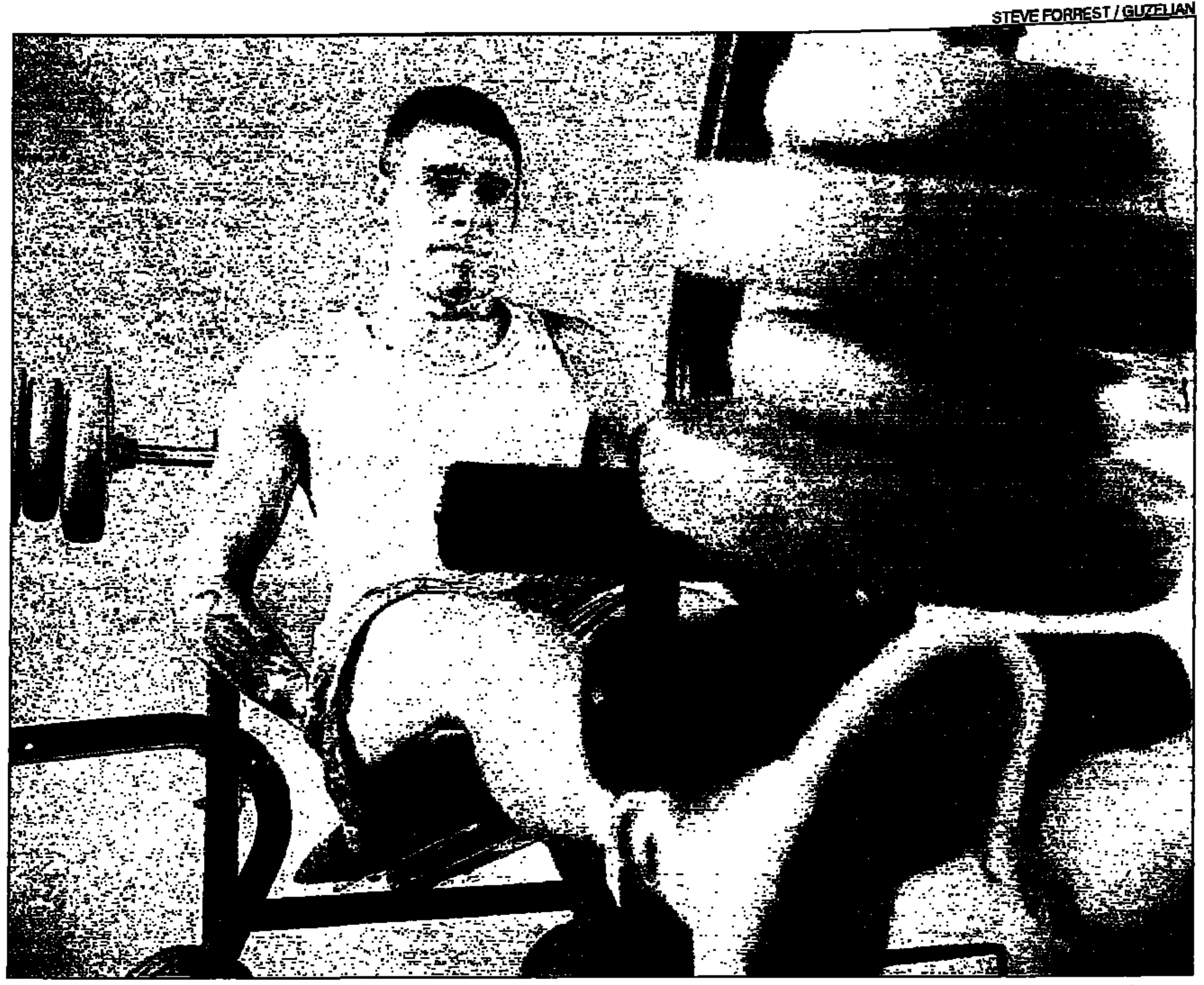
For between £65 and £98 they are supplied with a mouthwash kit to be posted back for analysis. The results determine with 85 per cent accuracy whether they are among two million people in Britain who carry the gene responsible for the disease.

University Diagnostics was founded nine years ago at University College London. It has a £1 million turnover, performing immigration testing for the Government and offering independent forensic DNA expertise for defence lawyers. It has tested 1,000 people since launching its cystic fibrosis kits a year ago.

Dr Paul Debenham, the managing director, said he would have no problems with the code of practice and predicted a huge long-term expansion of DNA testing to cover osteoporosis, adult-onset diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

The Leeds Ante-Natal Screening Service is part of Leeds University and all its £10,000 annual profits go to research. It screens 200 patients a year, charging £88 for Down's syndrome biochemical tests, £98 for genetic cystic fibrosis screening and £128 for a combined test. The company aims to provide services not available elsewhere.

STEVE FORREST / GUZELIAN



Graham Ward follows a fitness regime, but army doctors say that his health not in good enough for re-enlisting

Ex-soldier caught in medical crossfire

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER soldier has been told that he cannot re-enlist in the Army because he is permanently disabled — but is too fit to qualify for a disability pension.

Graham Ward, 25, wants to re-enlist in the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. But he has been registered by an army orthopaedic consultant as permanently disabled after a knee injury during his earlier army career.

Yet the Disablement Board of the War Pensions Agency, which had awarded him a pension, has withdrawn it because doctors consider him to be "100 per cent fit". Mr Ward has until December to prove to the Army that its medical assessment is wrong, because then he will be 26, the maximum age for recruits.

Mr Ward, who works for a security firm and runs three miles every morning, has been classed by the army consultant as a PL7 case. "A PL8 case is someone confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life and I'm supposed to be just one level below that," Mr Ward said.

His case has been taken up by a solicitor, Alison Herbert, who said: "Everyone, except this one army consultant, says he is fully fit, including his own doctor." If she is unable to persuade the Army to reconsider Mr Ward's case, she intends to seek a judicial review.

Mr Ward, from Harrogate, North Yorkshire, joined the Army in 1991. He sprained his left knee during an outdoor army exercise and had to leave. He rejoined in 1993 but the knee was injured again during a gym game. He was discharged in March 1994 and was granted a disablement pension by the War Pensions Agency.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that the Army would examine his case. A spokesman said: "Tests by civilian doctors may not necessarily take into account the extra physical demands of life in the Army."

US doctor wants all boys to be circumcised

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH and American doctors clashed yesterday over claims that universal circumcision of all newborn boys should be brought in as a public health measure.

An American report in a specialist paper published today by the *British Medical Journal* says that it would prevent disease and save money. Not only would circumcision give protection against HIV, but it would also reduce cancer and limit infections. Uncircumcised boys are ten times more likely to suffer from urinary tract infections and potentially permanent kidney damage, it says.

The author, Edgar Schoen of the Kaiser Foundation Research Institute in Oakland, California, says uncircumcised heterosexual men are four times as likely to become infected with HIV, while only ten of the 50,000 cases of penile cancer in the US since 1930 have involved circumcised men.

In the same journal, *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, Angus Nicholl of the Public Health Laboratory Service says there is a small but persistent risk of complication from male circumcision and the public health value of a routine circumcision policy has not been proved. He calculates that circumcision for non-HIV sexually transmitted diseases would not be cost-effective.

Circumcising the 375,000 boys born every year would cost the NHS £9.8 million and it would take at least 15 years for any potential health benefit to emerge, he says.

Higher education given £165m boost

By John O'Leary
EDUCATION EDITOR

STUDENT loan payments are to be staggered to help to provide a £165 million lifeline for higher education next year, it was announced yesterday. But there is no guarantee that universities will keep the proceeds from tuition fees in future.

Baroness Blackstone, the Higher Education Minister, said new arrangements had been agreed before the completion of the Treasury's overall spending review in recognition of the serious problems facing higher education. Universities would receive an extra £125 million, with £40 million going to boost hardship funds for students and provide incentives for student teachers.

Most of the additional money has been found by ending the annual payment of loans. From next September, new students will receive their loans in termly instalments, pushing a third of the expenditure into the following financial year. The remainder will come from other administrative adjustments, ensuring that none of the department's programmes has to be cut.

Lady Blackstone said the extra funding would reduce the planned cut for universities to below the 1 per cent that Sir Ron Dearing said in his July report on higher education could be accommodated. Previous plans required a 2.7 per cent cut next year. The new arrangements mean that universities will receive most of the first year's income from fees, with the remainder going towards student support. There will be some further savings in 1999, but no decision on the future use of fee income will be made until the Treasury's review is finished.

Details of a £10 million scheme to help student teachers with their fees are yet to be finalised. The Health Department is to pay fees for doctors and dentists in their final year.

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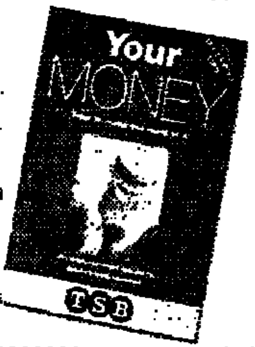

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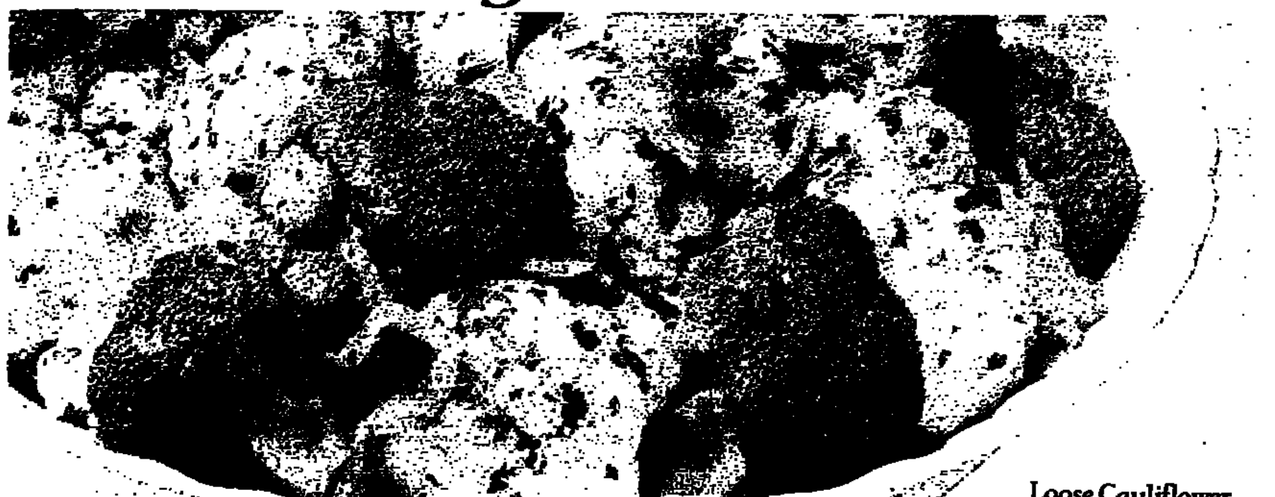

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£45,000 for dyslexic who was failed by experts

One missed test led to bullying and dead-end jobs, reports **Adrian Lee**

AN INTELLIGENT young woman who left school with a reading age of seven won damages of more than £45,000 yesterday from the local authority that failed to diagnose her dyslexia.

The award to Pamela Phelps, 23, marked the first time in which liability has been found in such a case. It is likely to trigger hundreds of other claims from among Britain's *estimated 2.3 million* dyslexics.

The British Dyslexia Association said it hoped Miss Phelps's success would lead to a review of dyslexia screening by all education authorities. Miss Phelps, who said she still felt bitter towards the London Borough of Hillingdon, the authority involved, said she *would spend the money on her* education: she hoped to take GCSEs and become a computer programmer. "I will never lose my dyslexia, but I can improve it, even if it takes a lifetime."

It was only when her brother saw a television programme about the former racing driver Stirling Moss, who *is* dyslexic, that her condition was discovered, shortly before she left Mellow Lane secondary school at the age of 16.

Miss Phelps, a *single parent* of Hayes End, West London, was dismissed from her first job because *she* made so many mistakes. Since then she has had a series of menial jobs. She now has a reading age of 10½.

Mr Justice Garland, giving his judgment at the High Court, said *that* Diane Melling, an educational psychologist employed by Hil*lingdon, mistakenly* blamed emotional problems. "This was more than an error of judgment: it was a failure to exercise the degree of care and skill to be expected of an ordinarily competent member of her profession."

The court had been told that, when she was aged almost 12, Miss Phelps could still not write her address. One more test would have established the real problem. The judge said Miss Melling "*could and should* have looked further, but did not".

> ❛ I knew there was something wrong but no one would listen. They kept trying to say it was problems at home. When dyslexia was diagnosed, it was such a relief ❜

The judgment includes the names of seven special needs teachers or educational psychologists who assessed Miss Phelps. The court was told that, at the age of seven, she *was already reversing the* letters *d* and *b*, a classic sign of dyslexia. At Hayes Park Infants School she was referred to a psychologist who said that her IQ of 93 was within the national average band. At her *next school*, Mellow Lane, her head of year said she "lacked motivation and did not try".

Cherie Booth, QC, told *the* court that, had her client been offered special tuition, she *would have gone on to* earn £20,000 a year. Instead, she was lumped in with children of low intelligence. Miss Phelps told the court she was bullied as a result of her dyslexia.

Speaking afterwards, her mother, Ann, recalled how she made a succession of visits to her daughter's schools, seeking help. "I knew there was *something wrong, but no one* would listen. They kept trying to say it was problems at *home. When dyslexia was* diagnosed, it was such a relief."

Jackie Leluvien, president of the Hillingdon Dyslexic Association, and now tutor to Miss Phelps, said she hoped the judgment would lead to more *investment by education au*thorities. "There are still many cases slipping through the net because teachers do not have the expertise to spot dyslexia. It is not obvious. There is a tendency to blame it on lack of *attention, slow learning, laziness*: you name it."

She said that Miss Phelps *had made great* strides but still suffered from a lack of self-esteem. Miss Phelps's sol*icitor, Jack Rabinowicz*, who is representing 50 other dyslexics, said: "Many children have been badly let down and this case will mean they can now go ahead to claim compensation."

A spokeswoman for the British Dyslexia Association called for teachers to receive better training in spotting the *warning signs. "Children will* respond well if they are diagnosed early enough," she said. "With proper screening, dyslexia can be picked up at the age of five."

A spokesman for the London Borough of Hillingdon said the authority was disappointed by the judgement and was considering an *appeal. He said Miss Melling* — now Mrs Loffler — who bore much of the judge's criticism, was *still* employed there as an educational psychologist. She refused to comment.

The award consisted of £6,550 for past and future tuition fees, £25,000 for future loss of earnings and £12,500 *for general damages*. The judge also awarded interest, taking the total to £45,650. He agreed that £37,000 should be withheld, pending a possible appeal by the authority.

CHRIS HARRIS

Pamela Phelps after winning her court case. She will spend the money on education

Recovery rates are good if problem is spotted early

The chances of children receiving help are often hit and miss, reports **Ian Murray**

THERE are fewer than 2,000 teachers specially trained in identifying and helping dyslexic children in Britain's 25,000 schools. Local education authorities have no centralised policy and provision is extremely patchy.

*According to the Dyslexia Insti*tute, which has trained 200 teachers in each of the past five years, every school needs a dyslexia teacher, especially at primary level, because *the sooner the condition is identi*fied the better the chance of ensuring a proper education.

Although dyslexia was first identified 100 years ago, it is only in the past 25 years that it has been recognised widely as a genuine condition. Prior to that, according *to Martin Turner, head of psychia*try at the institute, it was often regarded as a middle-class disease, *used as an excuse by parents* whose children were slow at learning.

Surveys show that between 2 and 4 per cent of all children are seriously dyslexic, which means that up to 24,000 of the 600,000 children in each school year suffer from it. "There are probably a large *number who have slipped through* the net," Mr Turner said. "Many local authorities have been saving money by not providing proper care for dyslexics and now they can *find themselves having to pay out* millions in compensation for failing to do so."

The condition runs in families, making it possible for children at risk to be identified from birth. Margaret Snowring, a psychiatrist at the University of York, said that the first signs were an inability to pronounce simple words easily and a failure to understand the way rhymes worked. *This made it* difficult for children to repeat nursery rhymes.

Normal four-year-olds should be able to recognise eight or so letters of the alphabet, *while dyslexic ones* would struggle to know a couple. In school, the gap between normal *children and dyslexic children* begins to widen rapidly.

"Their intelligence is quite normal, but they have short-term memory difficulties; they forget instructions and they can show high levels of frustration because they can see their peers are able to *cope in a way that they can't*." Ms Snowring said.

The test mentioned in the High Court was devised 25 years ago at the dyslexia unit at the University of Wales in Bangor. It is based on observations of the tasks dyslexic children find difficult. These include remembering sequences of numbers and repeating them forwards and backwards, reciting the months of the year both ways and reciting mathematical tables.

Their ability to recognise right and left is tested by tasks such as touching an ear with the opposite *hand. They are given words such as* catastrophic, statistical and anemone to repeat. Ann Cooke, who runs the unit, said: "They can't work out the mechanics of writing words with the letters the right way round. They confuse a number like 15 and write 51 instead."

Dyslexic children have to be given special teaching so that they can link sounds to letters. This *involves repeating similar phonetic* sounds with words until the child recognises them together.

Although dyslexics are never cured, they can be trained to read fluently even if they cannot always spell well. If training starts at 7 there is a 90 per cent chance of a *child being able to cope in later* years. If the condition is not spotted until the mid-teens, the chances of success fall to below 50 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asprilla's friend is convicted

A *drug addict* who bought cocaine with the help of £1,000 given to him by his friend *Faustino Asprilla*, the Newcastle United footballer, was convicted of possessing the drug. *Leonel Sarmiento-Mottoa*, 31, a cleaner from North London, was cleared of intent to supply. Before adjourning the case for presentence reports, Judge Peter Fingret told Sarmiento-Mottoa that the likely outcome would be a prison sentence.

Driver hid crime

A drink-driver whose two friends were killed in a crash *placed the* car keys *on one of* their bodies to hide his guilt. Ateeq Rafiq, 23, was told at Nottingham Crown Court that he faced a lengthy jail sentence after admitting causing death by careless driving.

Stamp delayed

The Queen has postponed the issue of stamps celebrating her golden wedding anniversary as a mark of respect to Diana, Princess of Wales. The four stamps, due to go on sale on October 7, will now be *available from November* 13, a week before the anniversary.

New film head

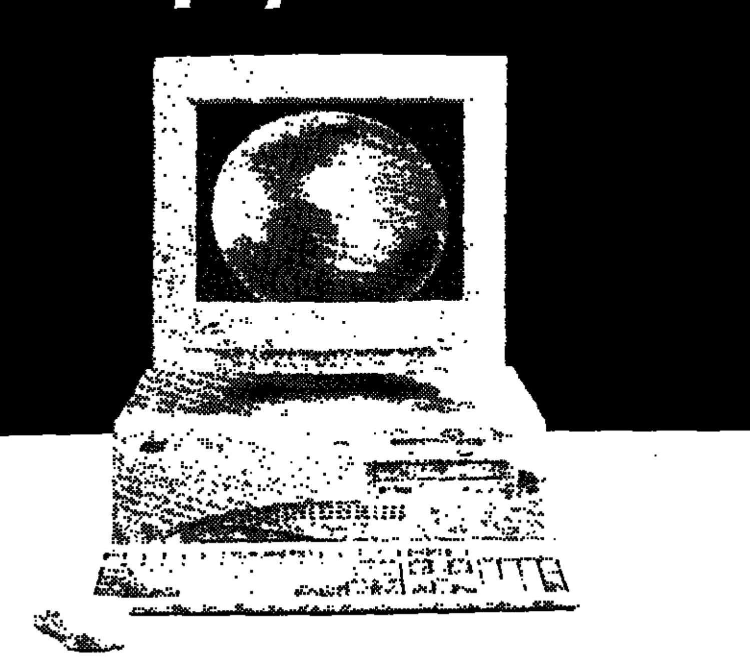
The producer Steve Norris, *whose movies include Memphis Belle*, is to succeed Sir Sydney Samuelson as head of the British Film Commission in November. The commission eases the way for filmmakers wanting to shoot movies in Britain.

Fragrant tickets

Lever Brothers are promoting their new brand of Radion by impregnating London bus *tickets with the smell of the* washing powder. The tickets give off the scent when rubbed, and carry the slogan: "Your washing could smell as fresh as this ticket."

Pier for sale

Totland Bay Pier on the Isle of Wight, offering tranquillity and a view of The Needles, is to be sold next month. The 450ft-long pier, built in 1880, *has a guide price of £10,000* but its new owner will have to spend thousands more repairing the planking.



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Libraries are urged to charge for book loans

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

LIBRARIES in England and Wales must consider charges to pay for the services that will meet the needs of the next century, the Audit Commission says. The number of books borrowed has fallen by 19 per cent in the past ten years, and unless libraries offer the latest technology they will face further decline.

Less money is being spent on books — £94 million last year, down 10 per cent in a decade — with the highest cuts in London (down 30 per cent) and the North East (down 25 per cent). Many libraries have also cut their opening hours, with the figure down 6 per cent nationally. London and the North East again had the largest cuts.

The commission says today that management of the country's 4,000 libraries must become more dynamic and that they should play an important role in linking the public to the information superhighway. In a report about the future of the library service, *Due for Renewal*, libraries are told they must invest in new equipment to catch up with the technological revolution.

It suggests that one way of helping to pay for the new facilities is through charging. Some charge is already made by libraries for many ICT-based services, but the law forbids them from charging for the loan of books. Last year libraries raised £12 million in hire charges for videotapes and music CDs.

The Audit Commission clearly hopes that the suggestion of possible charging will encourage a debate on the issue. But the status quo for the library service is not an option: "There are signs it is in gradual decline and may not be strongly placed to take up the challenges now facing it."

Savings of about £14 million were identified in improved stock control of books, with regular updating. The report also suggests that more computers would allow readers to take out their own books, and to reserve titles electronically, cutting staff costs and queueing.

Unless action is taken, the report says: "Library authorities that do not rise to these challenges run the risk of becoming increasingly inefficient, ineffective and irrelevant to the needs of those whom they serve."

But libraries attract people of all ages and social classes, and the report says they are well regarded and well liked. There were about 335 million visits to libraries last year, compared with 140 million going to local swimming pools and sports centres. The number of visits to local museums and galleries was 10 million.

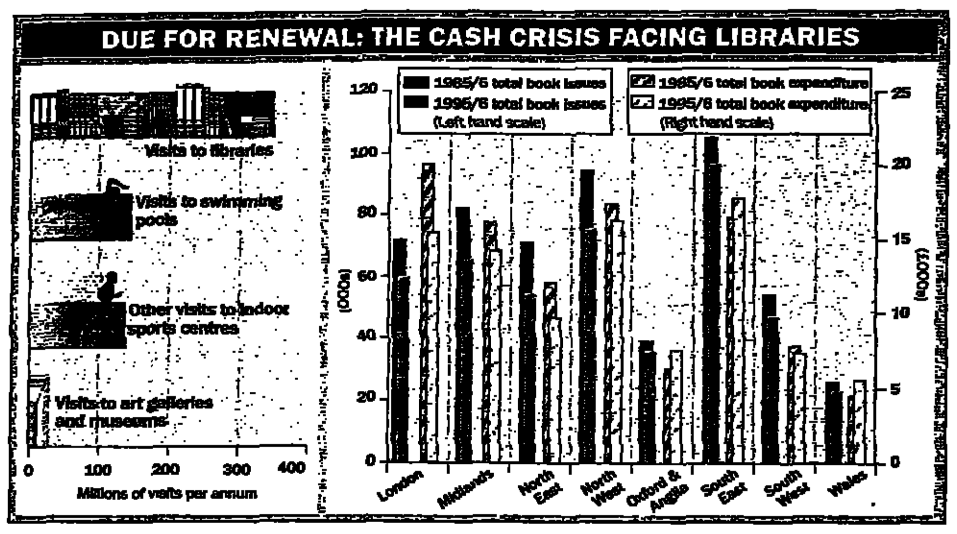
Libraries cost an average £13 per head of the population, with 12 million people visiting their branch every fortnight. Some 24 million adults are members of a library and 460 million books were issued, nine for every person in the country.

Only readers in Finland, Denmark and The Netherlands borrow more library books per head. The Audit Commission also claims that funding on libraries is being used for staff costs and not for spending on new books.

Staff costs have increased by 10 per cent in the past ten years and have taken up the 10 per cent of extra funding. The library service costs £670 million a year. The Audit Commission says that the average salary for library staff has risen from £12,900 to £15,800 in ten years.

"What is worrying for the library service is that, when it is caught between a budget ceiling and rising staff costs, the result is a squeeze on the books and materials budget."

DUE FOR RENEWAL: THE CASH CRISIS FACING LIBRARIES



TOM PURSLOW

Beverley Williams, a librarian at Manchester Central Library. Technology will mean readers need not visit

Read-only will be just a memory

Computers lead 21st-century plan for new services, says **Russell Jenkins**

THE imposing classical entrance to the Manchester Central Library speaks volumes for the sense of history it was opened in 1934 to disseminate. Once through the swing doors, however, the reader is offered a glimpse of a bright digitised future.

It was to the library once called the "British Museum of the North" that researchers for the Audit Commission report came to investigate how public libraries could exploit information technology to remain important institutions into the 21st century.

Readers and researchers make 1.5 million visits to the library each year and the numbers, driven by the need to acquire technical information for professional and education needs, are increasing, allowing it to buck the national trend. While the number of book issues across the country is down 19 per cent over the past ten years, the number has increased 40 per cent at the Central Library over the same period.

Its collection of about two million volumes, predominantly in the social sciences and technical fields, is one of the most important in the country. At the same time Alec Gallimore, the library manager, has ensured an IT strategy that will bring the library to the people.

He believes that libraries are evolving from being central stores of materials — to which every user has to make regular visits and spend many hours in study — to information centres which can distribute information through networks from "one end of the world to another". Microfilm will give way to digitised information. He said: "One of the things we are doing at the moment is taking IT services to the public.

" We see this as a means of getting information right down to local level. We have a network connected to local district libraries so they can access information held here. We have databases and CD-Roms on the network.

"Our aim is to take information to people wherever they are, without them having to come to the building. The original library will remain, but it will be much more heavily dependent on IT."

Wilmslow Public Library, run by Cheshire County Council, is a popular branch library serving the affluent Cheshire suburb. Over the past decade, it has suffered its share of the national trend away from book borrowing.

The modern glass-fronted library, which shares a car park with a Sainsbury store, has transformed itself into a supermarket for information to attract regular library users. It offers a host of services, including entertainment videos, special interest CD-Roms, music cassettes.

A library shop offers educational wall charts, cards and books bearing titles like Tea Shop Walks in Cheshire. Outside the library, visitors are invited to access 24 hour information on bus and rail timetables, city maps and council services on a touch-driven electronic screen. Once inside, the usual borrowing and reference sections for adults and children are bolstered by on-screen databases giving information on local organisation and job vacancies.

An independent company surveys the shelves by computer to ensure that they are replenished with fresh titles and that the stock is circulated through the area. Overdue books cost 10p for every day they are late.

Barbara West, Wilmslow's area manager, said: "One thing that is different now is that we are actually saying what we have to offer rather than, as in the past, assuming people know. The other thing is people are more demanding and much more information conscious."

Customers demand to shop around the clock

BY ROBIN YOUNG

DEMAND is increasing for Britain to stay open all hours, according to a report published today.

Eighty per cent of the population think that companies should provide customer care by telephone outside normal working hours, according to research sponsored by BT and First Direct.

More than a third of those questioned for the Future Foundation, a commercial think-tank, said they would like to shop outside normal hours in department stores, while 58 per cent wanted pharmacies to open earlier and close later. Almost half wanted grocery stores to open longer. There was also public demand, the researchers found, for pubs to stay open beyond midnight.

Leon Kreitzman, of the Future Foundation, said yesterday: "It is younger people who are most keen to see flexible opening hours. They are the group already enjoying the 24-hour exeperience — dropping off dry-cleaning on the way to the pub or cinema, collecting it on the way back and doing a quick run around the supermarket afterwards."

Mr Kreitzman said that there was a trend toward increasing use of the telephone to get information or services. "In this area," he said, "it is the 25-44 year olds, those with children, high-income groups, shiftworkers and those who have pressure on their time who like the convenience of ordering goods and services from home in the evenings or at weekends."

The report says that 33 per cent of customers are willing to pay extra for out-of-hours service. Almost 75 per cent of businesses accept that a 24-hour service is inevitable, yet 70 per cent of retailers said they had no plans to alter their hours.

Peter Simpson, commercial director of First Direct, said: "The point about the 24-hour society is the freedom it gives people, allowing them to decide when they want to bank or shop."

The appetite for extended hours is not confined to commerce, the report adds. There is strong demand, backed by 60 per cent of consumers, for doctors and dentists to be more available at night and over weekends, and 20 per cent would like schools to open beyond standard hours.

Dominic Owens, BT's head of business communications, said: "Companies cannot afford to stall their response for long."

City that dreams of never sleeping

BY PAUL WILKINSON

Leeds has a thriving nightlife and relaxed licensing laws

THE people of Leeds have embarked on a multimillion-pound initiative to make it the 24-hour city.

In the past four years, civic leaders have spent £10 million on turning the Yorkshire city of 700,000 people into a metropolis to rival any European capital. Leeds claims Britain's largest financial services sector outside the City of London, and is fast becoming one of the country's biggest cultural centres.

Already home to Opera North, the city recently became the Northern Ballet's base, and a college of music is being established. The West Yorkshire Playhouse, under Jude Kelly's directorship, has an international reputation. The Leeds piano competition is one of the world's finest showcases for new talent.

"We have sought to stretch the life of the city by encouraging more and more residents, visitors and business to recognise its potential and make greater use of the centre, particularly in the evenings," said Paul Paley, chairman of the local authority's city centre committee. "A well-used city that is safe, accessible and friendly to people of all ages, all walks of life, day and night is our ultimate ambition."

The city council is seeking to provide the infrastructure and political climate for public and private enterprise to flourish. Car parks on the perimeter of the central area were made safer, with bright lighting, security guards and closed circuit television. Cameras were also set up across the city centre and last week the council introduced foot patrols to provide help and security for the public. Traffic has been barred from many streets to allow pedestrians greater freedom of movement.

The policy of relaxed licensing regulations had led to a remarkable growth of nightlife, which thrives on the 50,000 students who attend courses in Leeds. There are Michelin-starred restaurants and theme pubs, and bars are encouraged to put tables on the streets. A property development programme has tried to increase the number of people living in the city centre.

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House party host denies Tory plot to make Patten leader

Garel-Jones's Spanish home: "Just a reunion," he said

MPs have been smelling a conspiracy over a meeting at arch-conspirator's home, reports **Andrew Pierce**

THE arch-conspirator of the Conservative Party broke cover yesterday to deny rumours of a plot to oust William Hague as leader and replace him with the former Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten.

Speculation of a conspiracy has been rife since it emerged that the Machiavellian former Chief Whip, Tristan Garel-Jones, played host at his Spanish home last week to John Major, Mr Patten and William Waldegrave.

According to the gossip at Westminster, the group was gathering among the orange groves of Candeleda, near Madrid, to scheme against Mr Hague. Nervous Tory MPs speculated that Mr Major was being urged to stand down in his Huntingdon constituency to make way for Mr Patten, who would make a triumphant return to Westminster to oppose Mr Hague.

It was, after all, Mr Garel-Jones who hosted a meeting of ministers at his London home in 1990 after the first ballot of the Tory leadership campaign, which concluded that Mrs Thatcher was finished. That meeting included Mr Waldegrave and Mr Patten and became known as the Catherine Place conspiracy.

Mr Garel-Jones yesterday not only denied the conspiracy but said he was hosting a reunion of old friends who were members of the Blue Chip Dining Club — and that Mr Hague had been invited.

"I do not think a single word was expressed which would have caused William any unease. People always accuse me of being a conspiracist, but I am no longer in a place to influence events in the Commons. I am a footnote in political history," said Mr Garel-Jones.

"I invited William about six weeks ago. It hardly suggests a sinister plot against him when, with the agreement of my other guests, he was invited to join us."

The four house guests were members of the Blue Chip Dining Club, which was drawn from the brightest of the 1979 intake of MPs. "We are all old friends."

The Spanish house party was augmented on Saturday by the arrival of Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, a staunch Major loyalist. "We were sorry William could not join us," said Mr Garel-Jones. "He would have enjoyed the conversation and the break from all the sniping at home. We were all well disposed towards him.

"But even if had joined us the conspiracy theorists would have had a field day. I suspect they would said he had come to ask John Major how to do the job. It is very tiresome. We want William to succeed. Honest."

Letters, page 21

Major foresaw bloody fighting

By Nicholas Wood

JOHN MAJOR foresaw the infighting and personal rancour that wrecked his Government, according to a television programme on his years in power.

Within days of winning the 1992 general election — his greatest triumph — the former Prime Minister told Jeffrey Archer that he faced five years of misery at the hands of his enemies within Tory ranks. The now Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare said: "He delivered a sentence that I will remember for the rest of my life: 'I think I ought to warn you I am about to have five of the most unpleasant years of my life ... There are a lot of people out there who are cross we won and this is an election they did not expect us to win. They are going to take it out on me and take it out on the party. It's going to be a bloody time."

In the same programme, the former Cabinet minister David Mellor admits that he behaved "foolishly" in having an affair with Antonia de Sancha, an actress.

In *Major in Power*, to be screened next month by BSkyB, Mr Mellor says that even the Archangel Gabriel would have struggled to contain a Tory party riven by naked ambition.

Ministers break ranks over pay rise sacrifice

Philip Webster

on hopes by Cook and Blunkett to salvage some of the Cabinet's £16,500 award

THE Cabinet pay dispute burst into the open yesterday as two senior ministers publicly countered suggestions that they had agreed to give up a £16,500 increase.

As John Prescott anxiously tried to arrange a compromise that would allow the issue to be settled before next week's Labour Party conference, Gordon Brown delivered another call for restraint.

Speaking in Hong Kong, he insisted on discipline in public spending and added that he was demanding that public pay settlements "across the board" must be guided by firmness and fairness. While Treasury sources denied that the message was aimed specifically at Cabinet colleagues, the implication was clear.

The row has become the Government's worst presentational failure since the election. First Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and then David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, confirmed that ministers had far from given up hope of salvaging some of the £16,500 that they were expected to take in April.

Mr Cook said from New York that there had been "unanimous agreement" in the Cabinet last week that the increase should be "deferred". He said Mr Prescott was looking at how the rise should be "phased and staged in".

Cabinet ministers have made little effort to conceal their displeasure at the way in which they feel they were "bounced" last week into forgoing the pay rise which they had agreed to delay until next April, although it was due this year.

The irritation was evident in remarks from Mr Blunkett, who appeared to suggest that the row would not have happened had they been allowed to take the rise in May.

He said: "I think what we need to get across to the electorate is, far from actually being avaricious and greedy, we've already taken a pay cut of £16,500 for this year, for which we have received no credit. And now we are being abused for trying to sort out next year, which would never have arisen had we not taken a cut this year."

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *World at One*, Mr Blunkett added: "I'm talking about sorting out the resources that were allocated in last year's review body report. Pay increases for next year — as, of course, with teachers and nurses and doctors — would be recommended by the review body, which is currently sitting. I think that is something that we need to sort out quite separately."

Mr Prescott is trying to find a solution that covers the need to show restraint over the £16,500 rise, and the February recommendation from the pay review bodies that will cover next year's rise.

The row over Cabinet pay came after the Prime Minister moved to extricate himself last week from a potential row by making plain that he had no intention of taking his "entitlement" — a 40 per cent or £40,000-plus rise next year, which would have taken him to a total of £143,860.

Mr Blair urged Cabinet colleagues to take their full salaries, but by the end of the day it was indicated that a substantial number had decided to ignore that call and instead to follow their leader's example.

Now it is clear that was only a holding position. One minister said last night that he had yet to hear from Mr Prescott. Another said the row was "turning into a nightmare".

Nigella Lawson, page 17

DAVID JONES

Mr Hague tucking into a balti curry during his tour of the West Midlands yesterday

Hague puts suite heart ahead of Thatcher

By Andrew Pierce
Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE confirmed yesterday that he would break with tradition, and defy Baroness Thatcher, by sharing an hotel room with his fiancée at the Tory conference.

Despite protests from Tory traditionalists, led by the former Prime Minister, Mr Hague, 36, and Ffion Jenkins, 29, will book into the same £300-a-night suite at the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool.

Mr Hague insisted in a radio interview yesterday that he was determined to do his "own thing". John and Norma Major and Margaret and Denis Thatcher have stayed in the suite.

"People know we are getting married in December," he said. "We are absolutely committed to each other," he said on BBC Radio 5 Live. Mr Hague, who lives with Miss Jenkins in a flat in West London, added: "I don't think people take exception to people in that situation being very close and spending a lot of time together."

Mr Hague said he would not be cowed by media criticism or adverse comments from party members. Lady Thatcher feared the latter might be upset by pictures of the couple coming down the stairs after staying in the same room overnight.

Mr Hague added: "A partner is extremely important for [support] in good times and bad times."

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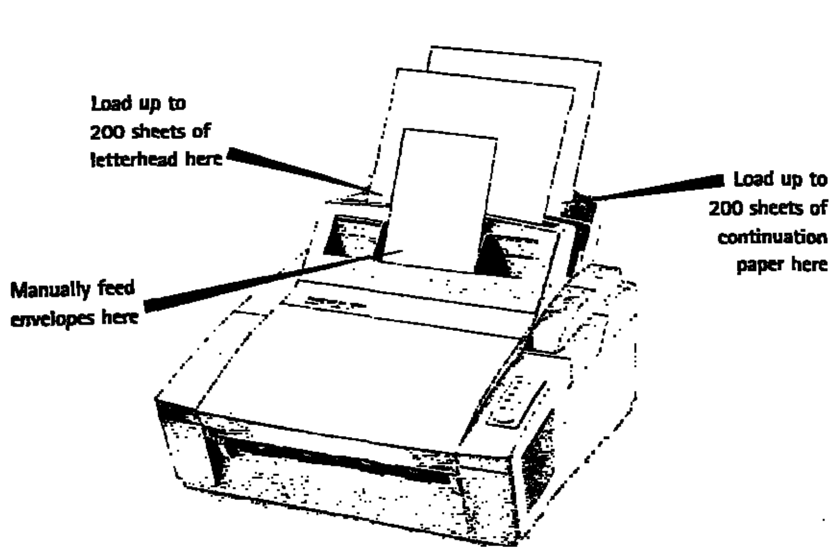
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A literate democrat succeeds with gentle persuasion

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

"NINETEEN ninety-seven is the date of a seismic rumble! A political earthquake!" Thus spake the president of the Liberal Democrats, Robert Maclennan, at Eastbourne yesterday. Mr Maclennan is no earthquake. Nor is he a seismic rumble. Even as a minor tremor, he hardly registers on the Richter scale.

The MP for Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross could be compared to the slight shaking of a petal in the breeze. But he is an honest politician, a thinker and a wordsmith. The persistence in our politics of sensitive intellects like his gives hope for liberal democracy. No other party in Britain would allow space to brave originals such as Conrad Russell; no other conference would have accorded Robert Maclennan the standing ovation he enjoyed yesterday.

The pained, schoolmasterly and slightly querulous Scot will hear reported today only those passages deemed newsworthy in the controversy about cooperating with Labour. Bite-sized chunks for butterfly minds are what survive broadcasting editors' pencils, and PR-wise politicians see diminishing point in drafting fine, extended prose which will never be reported. But here, at least, is one passage from the Liberal Democrat president's speech which deserves a wider audience.

Labour, said Mr Maclennan, offered "a sort of bravura vacuum". The Tories "relied on fear. Old, tried and trusted ... After 18 years the Tories had nothing to hope for but fear." To the discomfort of the platform party, their president was even-handed between the two parties. Describing new Labour as adjectives in search of a noun, he added: "In a sense, Tony Blair is like Fortinbras, the character with the best timing in all Shakespeare. He comes on in Act V, scene 2, of *Hamlet* to find an army of dead and dying main characters and, not surprisingly, says that he is taking over.

"The last Tory Government was, anyway, a bit like *Hamlet*, with a decent, dithering lead, any number of untrustworthy courtiers, a ghost (female) who kept barging in, and the Tory party herself cast in the role of Ophelia, floating downstream, chanting snatches of old songs, before being dragged under, drowned, and given a bad-tempered funeral."

Referring (without naming her) to the "outpouring of distress and emotion" which had followed the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, Maclennan detected a sort of national confusion and self-suspicion. "I think there stirs in this country a rejection of whatever is uncaring, ungenerous, insular and grindingly arithmetical."

He framed the problem government refuses to confront: "We are still a relatively rich country but deprivation of opportunity is still relatively widespread." Against such a draft a spin-doctor would scrawl a marginal note: "Toughen up. Try *despair / underclass / abject / millions in poverty.*"

To me, the moderation of Mr Maclennan's language added to its power. During one of his speeches I remember his invoking Milton, Plato, Shakespeare (several references), Proust, Gide and at least two minor French novelists.

At the peroration of yesterday's address, he described what was distinctive about his party's spirit: "The belief in human diversity; the belief that the free interplay of conflicting ideas will create new, yet better ideas; and a willingness to trust people."

This struck me as a fair claim. Failing to overstate, it might have failed to inspire: but Maclennan took the risk. The whole conference rose to applaud him. Mr Maclennan looked bewildered at the approval — perhaps fearful that he had said something unwise. But he deserved his applause and his party deserves applause for applauding him.

IN BRIEF

Student fees scheme attacked

The Liberal Democrats launched a campaign yesterday against the Government's plans to introduce tuition fees for university students. Speaker after speaker attacked Labour's policy and representatives backed a motion rejecting tuition fees for first degrees.

Don Foster, the party's education spokesman told the conference that Gordon Brown would be remembered for ever as the Chancellor who brought in "the student poll tax". Phil Willis, the higher education spokesman, said that plans for the millennium dome should should be abandoned and the money used for student grants. He added: "The message from this conference to the Government must be loud, clear and resolute — have the courage to invest in education."

Many Liberal Democrat MPs are angry at their own leadership's intention to scrap the party's policy of raising income tax by 1p to boost spending on education. Paddy Ashdown indicated on Monday that the change would come before the next election. Party insiders predicted that the federal policy committee would oppose the plan, which is widely seen as a sop to Labour.

Labour accused over pollution

Matthew Taylor, the Lib Dem environment spokesman, accused the Government of spouting rhetoric about green issues without taking effective action to curb pollution. He said emissions of carbon dioxide — one of the "greenhouse gases" that cause global warming — had risen since May. "If the last few months of Labour is anything to go by then no-one should any longer believe that a change of government necessarily means a greener government."

The conference defied the leadership by backing a policy to speed up the rate of petrol price rises to ensure a reduction in greenhouse gases. Delegates overwhelmingly voted in favour of an annual 8 per cent rise in petrol prices, rather than the 6 per cent imposed by the Government.

Human rights promise 'hollow'

Jenny Tonge, the Liberal Democrat spokeswoman on international development, accused the Government of making "hollow promises" on human rights. She attacked ministers' decision not to block the export of Hawk jets and armoured personnel carriers to Indonesia, describing it as the first major failure of Labour's ethical foreign policy.

Dr Tonge, who is MP for Richmond Park, also paid tribute to the efforts made by Diana, Princess of Wales, in campaigning for a worldwide ban on anti-personnel landmines. "Her relentless efforts should remind us ... that controversy should not deter us from pursuing our principles and that at times risks need to be taken to achieve greater goals."

Call for inquiry into euthanasia

Calls for a Royal Commission on voluntary euthanasia will be debated by the conference tomorrow. A motion to be proposed by the writer and broadcaster Sir Ludovic Kennedy suggests that a commission should investigate the implications of allowing doctors to end the lives of terminally ill and suffering patients.

The discussion follows recent controversy over admissions by GPs that they have hastened the deaths of patients.

Ashdown to warn of risk needed for more success

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

EASTBOURNE

PADDY ASHDOWN will today urge his party not to tie his hands over further links with Labour, giving warning that the Liberal Democrats will have to take risks to build on their present success.

Mr Ashdown will make clear today that he intends to work more closely with Labour where it benefits his own party, such as on the constitution, a single currency and Northern Ireland. He will also call on Tony Blair urgently to commit Britain to joining a single currency at the turn of the century in an atempt to secure a common position between two parties on EMU.

Mr Ashdown's decision to take on his critics, who have accused him of selling out to Labour, follows a stinging attack on him by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio. In an article in *The Times* yesterday, Mr Mandelson accused the Liberal Democrat leader of pandering to his party by attacking Labour's spending plans.

Representatives at the party's conference in Eastbourne were furious about Mr Mandelson's intervention and stepped up their attacks on the Government's proposed tuition fees for students and its environmental policy. Andrew Stunell said: "Dear Peter. If you want to negotiate, please negotiate. If you want to blackmail our leader, please get lost."

Today Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will give a robust defence of the Government's spending plans and call on the Liberal Democrats to halt their continuing gibes about health and education spending. At a fringe meeting, Mr Darling will argue that it is all very well to co-operate with the Liberal Democrats on the constitution but the party would have to be more realistic about economic issues.

Today Mr Ashdown will be seen as bowing to Labour's demands when he calls on his party to trust him and allow him "to take risks with ideas, risks with policies and risks with politics". He is already facing a party backlash over moves to drop the party's key policy of adding an extra penny to income tax to boost education spending. Insiders said that several senior MPs were furious that he was trying to bounce them into dropping a policy they supported.

But in his conference speech today, Mr Ashdown will warn his party that it must grab the opportunities of one of the most "fluid" period of politics this century. Liberal Democrats should build on the chance of closer collaboration with Labour to influence the Government's agenda in key areas and lead the debate.

In the first four months of the Labour Government, the Liberal Democrats have secured PR in Europe, five seats on a joint Cabinet committee and the promise of a commission on PR at Westminster, he will say. This could help it to gain seats in Europe and in a Scottish Parliament.

But Mr Ashdown will also insist that the Liberal Democrats will not drop their constructive opposition to Labour's plans for health and education. Yesterday morning he was clearly stung by Mr Mandelson's remarks and vowed to press on with criticising Labour for adopting the Tory's spending plans.

While he insisted that Mr Mandelson's attack could not have been more opportune and had played into his hands, colleagues said that he had been surpised and hurt by the ferocity of the personal criticism.

Other senior Liberal Democrat MPs were angry that Labour had once again tried to hijack their conference. Two years ago Mr Blair talked about closer co-operation with the Liberal Democrats in an interview that dominated the first few days of their annual meeting. But Labour sources made clear that both Mr Mandelson and Mr Darling were echoing Mr Blair's own frustration about the Liberal Democrats' "oppositionitis".

Today Mr Ashdown will try to set the agenda on Europe by urging Mr Blair to spell out the Government's position on EMU. He will urge Labour to take Britain into a single currency by 2001 at the latest.

Last night Malcolm Bruce, the Treasury spokesman, gave a CBI fringe meeting the same message on EMU. He called on Tony Blair to set out a "declaration of intent", committing Britain to the principle of a EMU membership and of joining as early as possible.

Mr Bruce conceded that it was now increasingly unlikely that the Government would be prepared to join a single currency by 1999. "The indecision in Labour, and particularly Tory, ranks has left Britain in our view poorly prepared for 1999 entry."

MARTIN BEDDALL

Simon Eddy, 13, of St Austell was cheered for a speech in favour of cutting pollution in which he said: "We are living in what can only be described as a microwave. We are frying ourselves." The next speaker, Keith Melton, said: "I believe we have just seen a future leader of the Liberal Democrats. I only hope he doesn't go bald."

Shortlist quota for women fails to secure two-thirds majority

By Polly Newton

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday rejected a move to give women 50 per cent of the places on every shortlist of would-be parliamentary candidates drawn up by the party.

The proposal, which involved changes to the Liberal Democrats' constitution, was thrown out despite support from the party leader, Paddy Ashdown. There were boos and hisses from the floor when Jackie Ballard, MP for Taunton and the party's spokeswoman on women's issues, said that Mr Ashdown was in favour of the idea.

Although more delegates voted for the motion than against, it did not achieve the two-thirds majority necessary to allow changes to the constitution. An attempt to guarantee women at least half of the places on the party's key policy committees also failed to secure a two-thirds majority.

However, the conference agreed new measures that will guarantee that women make up half of the party's candidates' list at the European elections in 1999. The system, supported by representatives, will also ensure that at least half of the total number of seats won by the Liberal Democrats in those elections go to women, although there are fears that it could be open to legal challenge under sex discrimination laws.

Ballard: backed plan for 50 per cent quota

Mrs Ballard told the conference: "Constituency parties need to have a requirement of 50 per cent female shortlists to make sure that they all actively go out and encourage women to be candidates."

Justine McGuinness, chairman of the Women Liberal Democrats group, which put forward the motion, said the party could not hope to end sexism in Britain if it did not change itself. "If we want women in this party to have equal opportunities, we have to change the rules. It's as simple as that."

But Val Pattie from Saffron Walden in Essex said: "If we are to be taken seriously, we have to take the responsibility of presenting women of the right calibre, not manipulate the system to suit ourselves."

Jo White from Bath said that the proposed change would put "token women" on shortlists. "We don't need more token women, we need more trained women."

Campaigners for the 50 per cent option later said they were disappointed that it had not been passed but insisted that they would not give up.

Small squall will soon blow over

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

Almost everything said during the party conference season needs to be heavily discounted. Nothing is ever quite what it seems. Speakers exaggerate the virtues and distinctiveness of their own parties compared with their rivals. Tribalism rules. That why the latest squall in the Labour-Liberal Democrat relationship should have no lasting impact.

The prickly assertiveness of the Liberal Democrats against Labour in Eastbourne this week and yesterday's *blunt reaction in The Times* from Peter Mandelson, will *not disrupt* their close contacts. There has been an element of ritual about the Mandelson affair, though Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary, will return to the "power without responsibility" theme at a fringe meeting here today. But stripped of the bombast and posturing, the exchanges do reveal the difficulty of changing attitudes, of moving from adversarial to co-operative politics.

The parties have different views about what the creation of the consultative Cabinet committee implies. Labour wants the Lib Dems to behave like loyal government backbenchers and restrain their criticisms, while the Lib Dems want to retain all the freedoms of opposition. Both are wrong.

Labour leaders often regard the Lib Dems in a patronising way — as the *southwestern wing of new Labour* and as well-intentioned, *but often* woolly and ill-disciplined. There is little recognition of the Lib Dems' separate ideological and regional roots. The party reaches parts of the country than Labour does not and has had a lasting impact on the debate about constitutional reform and the environment. Labour tends to brush this aside.

Implicit in Mr Mandelson's article was the belief that, if the Liberal Democrats want to sit round the Cabinet table, they should suppress their own policies and accept "the responsibilities of government". But talk of "oppositionitis" is as "naive" as Mr Mandelson accuses Paddy Ashdown of being.

The Lib Dems cannot be expected to back every item of Government policy when they are not part of that Government and the consultations at present only cover the specific, though *important*, area of constitutional reform. What the Lib Dems *can* be expected do is, first, to support the Government on the agreed areas of *the constitutional* agenda and, secondly, *to adopt what Mr Ashdown* calls a "constructive" tone on other items. What really irks the Labour leadership is the sanctimonious "purer than thou" tone of some Lib Dem criticisms of the Government on public spending and taxes. The Lib Dems have made some valid criticisms of the inconsistencies of Labour's election pledges on public services, but Mr Mandelson had a *fair point in saying that the Lib Dems* are failing to address some of the tough choices on spending — for instance by opposing the shift to student tuition fees.

What is needed is balance on both sides. Mr Mandelson should not try to impose a uniformity of view on the Lib Dems, while they should recognise that to be taken seriously as partners they should not abuse the Government. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead yesterday put the latest squall into its proper perspective in a typically magisterial way. Mr Mandelson, he said on the BBC, is "certainly a very skilled politician ... but I sometimes think that he'd also be wise to realise that silence can be eloquent and a great virtue in politics. I don't think he likes periods of silence."

That is the trouble with party conferences. There is a lot of misleading noise.

PETER RIDDELL

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Civil war as Cape gangs battle

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

CAPE TOWN'S gang violence has intensified into a local civil war after a weekend of assassinations, bomb and grenade attacks which destroyed several homes in a conflict which threatens to shatter the Cape's tourist industry.

Most of the victims have been children as gangsters have resorted to ever heavier weapons in the past three weeks of tit-for-tat killings involving gangs and a vigilante group, People Against Gangs and Drugs [Pagad].

On Monday Sadicka Toffar, a month-old baby, was killed and her brother and two sisters, both under five, were wounded. Her seven-year-old brother's leg was torn off when gangsters threw a grenade into her home. Their home was also strafed with automatic weapons as their family's room was engulfed in flames.

The evening of their death was marked by four other bomb or grenade attacks as part of gang-on-gang violence and revenge attacks against the Pagad vigilantes for their killing of a prominent gangland figure earlier this year. A doctor associated with the vigilantes was shot dead in front of a patient by gangsters.

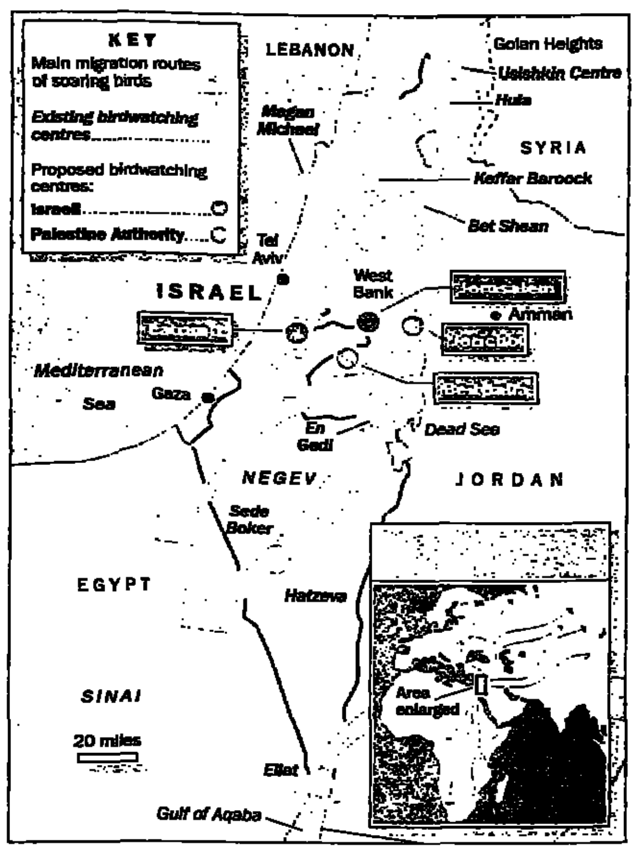
Killings are frequent in Cape Town, whose violent culture threatens to burst the luxurious bubble of the white residential areas beneath the Table Mountain which apartheid screened from the grubby lives of its victims for 47 years.

Last week Regan Pietersen, nine, suffered burns to his neck, arms and chest after a petrol bomb was hurled at his parents' house in Mitchell's Plain, while three-year-old Bonita Herman died from burns the previous week after a similar attack on her parents' home on the Cape Flats.

Gang leaders have issued a warning that they would soon begin targeting tourists and white homes in a move which will affect Cape's tourist industry.

The escalation in the violence has been sparked in part by the murder of Moegamat Nur Booley, a Pagad member.

Duck conservation stamps depicting a mallard, left, and a shelduck, right, issued by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. The society has joined forces with the Palestinian Council of Health to protect wildlife from the ravages of hunting in the region



Bird of prey bears message about peace to Middle East

Lesser kestrel has brought together Israelis and Arabs where diplomacy failed, **Michael Binyon** reports

A FALCON is doing more to bring Israelis and Palestinians together than any diplomatic negotiators. Environmentalists from both sides have set up a new joint body to protect wildlife, especially birds, to ensure that political disputes do not jeopardise one of the world's most important migratory routes.

Their immediate focus is on the lesser kestrel, a falcon, that nests for three months of the year in the warm hills of the Levant. Palestinian birdwatchers are co-operating with their Israeli counterparts to protect the nests of these migratory birds of prey, now considered endangered as only about 400 arrive each year. Nesting boxes are to be placed in Jericho, a breeding site for the kestrel, and also in west Jerusalem.

The two sides are also to set up a network of birdwatching centres in Israel and in the West Bank areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority to monitor the annual migration of millions of birds across the narrow land bridge between Africa and Asia. They will report the species and variety of birds as well as any decline in numbers and will lobby to ensure strict observance of local laws prohibiting the shooting of birds during the migration season.

Birdwatchers around the world have long been concerned at the huge dangers facing migratory birds over the Levant. Shooting is not popular in Israel, and there are only 5,000 licensed hunters, mostly Druze. Strict bans on gun ownership are enforced on the Palestinians under occupation, and in neighbouring Jordan there have long been bans on shooting birds out of season. But birds are killed on a massive scale in Syria, Turkey and Lebanon, with 500,000 hunters in Lebanon alone.

The Palestinian-Israeli Environmental Secretariat has been established to translate into action the promise by politicians who negotiated the Oslo peace accords that both sides would work together to improve and protect their environment. As a result, the Palestinian Council of Health and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel have come together in a new non-governmental organisation to develop joint activities and support Israeli-Palestinian co-operation.

The body, set up in June, aims to bring together Palestinian and Israeli young people, teachers and journalists to promote environmental awareness. It will use these projects to encourage activities that break down distrust and teach each side to accept the other. The secretariat will set up a database to help decision-makers and lobbyists and encourage "responsible development and joint assessment".

The first joint expedition was organised two months ago, with 20 Israeli and 20 Palestinian children. More are planned for the spring migration. Children are also being encouraged to follow the bird migration routes on sites set up on the Internet which will track birds using satellite transmitters.

Both sides are enthusiastic. Thaer Abu Diab, the Palestinian co-director, said he believed such projects could hold the peace process together. He did not think the political stand-off had dimmed their determination: "Things can't get more difficult than they are now." He said the Palestinian Authority had toughened the regulations restricting hunting and all sides were aware of their responsibility to protect one of the most important migratory routes in the world. Birds flying south from the Arctic winter or north again in spring flew over Israel and Jordan, one of the few routes where they could avoid flying over water and rest.

Yossi Leshem, a zoologist at Tel Aviv University, said the new secretariat wanted to extend co-operation to all countries of the Middle East. "Hopefully if the peace process goes on we can work with all our neighbours. Birds know no boundaries."

Leading article, page 21

Israel 'identifies' suicide bombers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI security officials believe they have identified the five Islamic militants who carried out the suicide bombings nearly two months ago in Jerusalem that killed 20 Jews and wounded more than 300.

Media reports said the bombers came from areas of the West Bank still under Israeli control, but that their leaders and support network were based in territory run by the Palestinian Authority. Yassir Arafat, its leader, had maintained that the bombers came from abroad.

A military intelligence officer told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that it was the tactic of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, to recruit the bombers from areas under Israeli control so as to not involve the Palestinian Authority.

Their identities became known on Sunday after troops imposed an air and land cordon around a West Bank village close to Nablus. Security sources said DNA tests were carried out on suspected relatives of the bombers. The official Voice of Palestine radio later identified the village as Assira, north of Nablus. It has a population of about 7,000 Arabs and is reputedly a Hamas stronghold. The siege of the village was continuing yesterday, prompting violent protests from Palestinians.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, said: "We have a very high degree of certainty that the perpetrators came from the Palestinian areas. They did not come from abroad."

Palestinian leaders dismissed his claim that they had not done enough to prevent the bombings. Ahmed Tibi, an Arafat aide, said that if the bombers came from a village under Israeli control, "they acted under the nose of Binyamin Netanyahu".

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Paint clue at Diana crash site studied

Paris: Police scientists yesterday began analysing flakes of paint taken from the wall of the road tunnel where the car carrying Diana, Princess of Wales, crashed, in the hope of establishing whether the fatal accident followed a collision with another vehicle (Ben Macintyre writes).

The tunnel beneath the Place de l'Alma was sealed off as investigators from the National Police Criminal Research Institute moved in to remove the paint fragments, which were taken to a police laboratory outside Paris. Tests should establish the make of car, as well as the year and place of production.

The laboratory has established that debris found 30 yards before the point of impact in the tunnel came from the rear brake light of a Fiat Uno. The shards were mixed with glass from the headlight of the Mercedes in which the Princess was travelling, prompting the theory that the larger car may have hit a smaller Fiat before crashing.

Witnesses have told police they saw a second car driving ahead of the limousine, which may have contributed to the August 31 accident.

☐ **Elysée protest:** French press photographers are to stage a symbolic protest in support of ten colleagues who have been targeted in a manslaughter inquiry after the Princess's death. Several dozen photographers plan to lay their cameras at the bottom of the Elysée steps, forcing Cabinet ministers to step over them. *(Reuters)*

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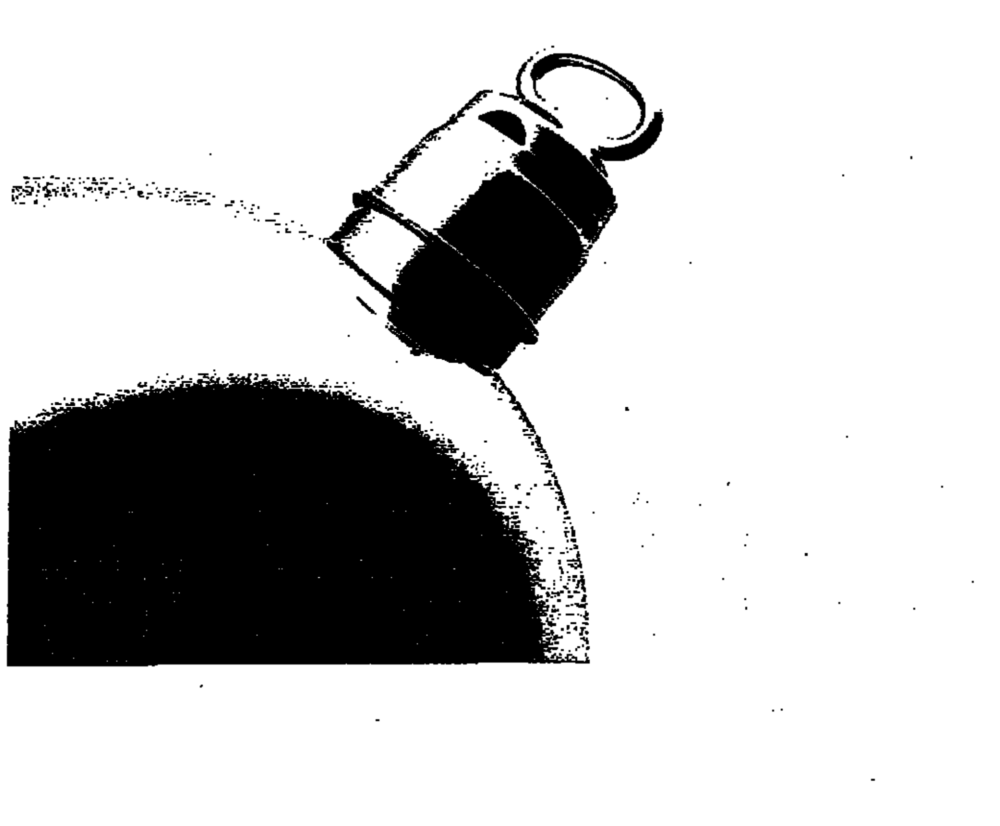

Illegal exports threaten hope of easing beef ban

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Government's drive to persuade Europe to lift its beef ban suffered a setback yesterday when the European Commission reported the illegal presence of British beef in Germany, stiffening German opposition to any easing of the 1996 embargo.

Emma Bonino, the Consumer Commissioner, said she had instructed the German authorities on Monday to close one meat processing company and take action against two others after Commission inspectors found "several dozen" tons of beef that they suspected had been fraudulently shipped from Britain. The European Union found thousands of tonnes of illegal British exports on the Continent last spring.

Yesterday's news ignited a fresh bout of anger in Germany, the country most hostile to any easing of the ban. It also fuelled German resolve at a farm ministers' council in Brussels to resist moves now under way to allow the resumption of beef exports from BSE-free herds in Northern Ireland.

Franz-Josef Feiter, a German Deputy Farm Minister, said Germany had strong reservations about easing the ban. He wondered how, with inadequate checks on exports, the authorities could ensure that British beef came only from Northern Ireland.

The remarks testified to the big political hurdles still ahead as Britain tries to follow up a finding by EU scientists last week that exports could resume for beef from certain herds but only in Northern Ireland. The province was the only British region with an adequate computerised record of its cattle.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Secretary, insisted yesterday that the Government wanted the measure to apply to "certified herds" across the United Kingdom. "There was a very strong negative reaction from Germany," he said.

He did not rule out proceeding on a regional approach. "We will try to influence that decision to get the best deal for all UK farmers ... but half a loaf is better than no bread." However, he was at odds with the Commission over the next step. Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, said it was now up to Britain to apply for an exemption for Northern Irish herds. The British minister insisted that it was the Commission's job to act.

The Commission said it was prepared to move quickly with proposals for legislation once the British decided to apply. Under the Florence agreement, concluded between John Major and fellow EU leaders in June last year, the EU promised to relax the ban if all scientific conditions are met. However, the consent of a majority of members is required. The Netherlands and Ireland indicated yesterday that they would support a resumption. Italy said it wanted veterinary officials to decide the issue before ministers. There was little support from other states. Dr Cunningham recognised the degree of resistance, saying he expected "battles ahead".

Before yesterday's news, German emotions were already running high in the aftermath of the discovery last summer that thousands of tonnes of British beef had been circulating on the Continent. The Commission threatened legal action against Britain last week for failing to ensure adequate controls at abattoirs. Mrs Bonino, who was put in overall charge of the BSE affair earlier this year, stoked the fire yesterday when she complained to the European Parliament that the Commission lacked resources to monitor compliance with the ban. EU inspectors had found national controls to be inadequate "so there is no guarantee of a watertight separation between the British and the non-British meat supply," she said.

DAMIR SAGOLJ / REUTERS

Bono, lead singer of the Irish rock band U2, and guitar player, The Edge, talk to journalists after their arrival in Sarajevo yesterday to perform the first major rock concert in the city since the Bosnian war ended in 1995

Vote could put Milosevic into opposition

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BELGRADE

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC'S grip on the Serbian parliament is slipping. With votes from just one region still to be counted, Mr Milosevic's socialists have failed to win an outright majority in last weekend's election, and could be forced into opposition for the first time in nearly 50 years.

Neither is it a forgone conclusion that a socialist president will succeed Mr Milosevic. Vojislav Seselj, one of Europe's most extreme nationalists, has proved a popular choice and will contest a run-off for the presidency with Mr Milosevic's puppet candidate, Zoran Lilic, on October 5.

There has been little celebration in Belgrade at Mr Milosevic's reverses. Many of Serbia's students and struggling middle classes are just as wary of Mr Seselj's firebrand nationalism. The diplomatic community fears likewise that Mr Seselj could spark instability in the Balkans and even wreck the Dayton peace accord.

So far the Socialists have won 98 seats in the 250-seat Parliament, with Mr Seselj's Radical Party picking up 80 seats and Vuk Draskovic's Serbian Renewal Movement gathering 45. Mr Draskovic fell out of the race for the presidency with 787,836 votes of the 90 per cent counted: Mr Lilic took 1.286 million votes and Mr Seselj 1.025 million.

The Belgrade press has for months carried rumours of a secretive pact between Mr Milosevic and Mr Draskovic, and analysts believe the two men are determined to keep Mr Seselj's extreme nationalists in opposition. Mr Seselj and Mr Draskovic, however, are old friends and were best men at one another's weddings, and an alliance between them — putting the socialists into opposition, is not out of the question.

EU will extend social laws to Britain

BY CHARLES BREMNER

THE European Commission is to start the legal machinery today for extending to Britain laws on parental leave and works councils that were adopted under the social chapter during the time of the Conservative Government.

The Commission's two proposed directives bring Britain into line with the rest of the European Union on social policy now that the Labour Government has ended the British opt-out from the chapter, negotiated by John Major at Maastricht in 1992. The chapter has been incorporated in the new Union treaty, which is to be signed in Amsterdam next week.

Once the directives are passed by the council of member states later this year, Britain will have two years to enact laws to comply with the existing two social chapter directives. These require big companies operating in more than one EU state to set up councils to "inform and consult employees" and all employers to give three months' minimum unpaid leave on the birth of a child as well as time off for other urgent family reasons.

Since agreeing to sign up to the chapter, Britain has already backed one new social law, which makes it easier for employees to win suits over sexual discrimination.

Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, has promised not to push for new legislation that could increase the burden on employers and drive up Europe's already high level of unemployment. But other measures are in preparation. These include a plan to extend works councils to all but the smallest companies.

Tensions are already apparent between Tony Blair's determination to keep labour markets flexible and the desire by the Commission, France and other member states to use social laws to combat what they see as the growing insecurity being inflicted on workers by increased global competition.

A villager comforts a mourner outside Algiers

Algiers in panic after rebels murder 85

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

PANIC spread through Algiers yesterday after Muslim rebels butchered at least 85 civilians in the suburbs of the Algerian capital in one of the worst acts of brutality in six years of fighting.

Security forces said that 85 people were burnt to death or had their throats cut and dozens more were injured in the attack on inhabitants of Bentoumi-Bentalha on the outskirts of Algiers. Residents put the death toll at between 180 and 200 people.

The assault by fundamentalists battling to overthrow the country's military-backed regime lasted into the early hours of yesterday, and came just three weeks after a similar attack on the suburb of Sidi Rais in which 98 residents were slaughtered — the highest single official death toll in the conflict.

Until this summer the rebels had concentrated their attacks on isolated rural hamlets and the change of tactics has provoked terror in the capital with inhabitants forming vigilante groups armed with knives, clubs and petrol bombs to defend themselves.

The authorities seldom comment directly on what are termed "cowardly acts" by "criminal elements", but last weekend Ahmed Ouyahia, the Prime Minister, conceded that the climate of fear had been caused by "terrorist acts perpetrated in August, the blackest month since 1994".

Mr Ouyahia also denied that the Government was negotiating with the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] which was leading in the 1991 general election before the Government cancelled the poll. About 60,000 people have died in the ensuing bloodshed.

A spokesman for the FIS in Paris condemned the latest massacre and said it raised "many questions" since "the areas affected had been strongholds of the FIS" which were now apparently being "punished" by the heavily-armed rebels. "We ask the United Nations Secretary-General to intervene in the crisis," he said. The latest massacres have also added a new level of confusion. They are plainly intended to show that the militants can strike civilians living within range of military installations, but they may also reflect power struggles between rival fundamentalist factions.

On Monday another 45 people were murdered in villages in Medea province, south of Algiers, according to local reports.

Some of the rural killings may have a strong criminal element, according to analysts, with hired bands attempting to drive villagers from valuable farmland.

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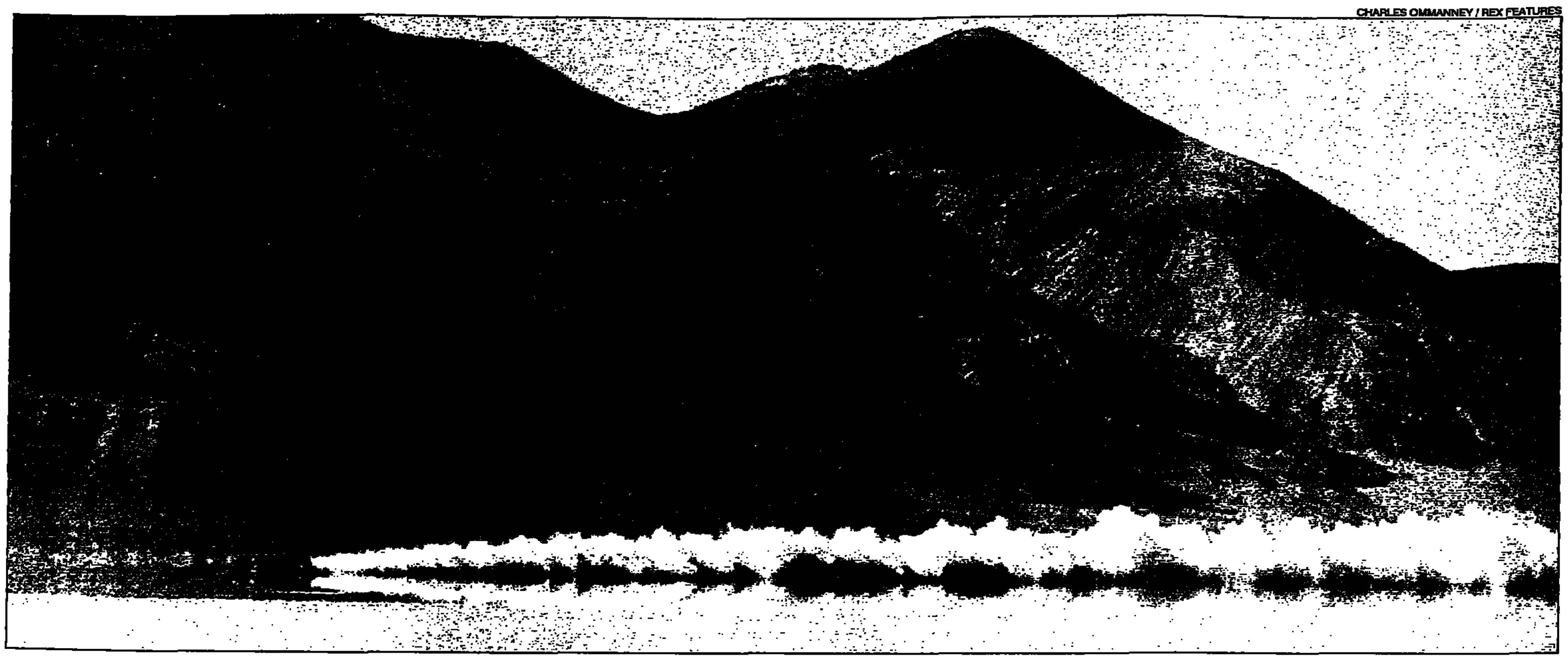
CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

Briton races to be fastest man on earth

Pilot challenger for land speed record retains ice-cool expertise in desert heat

FROM GILES WHITTELL
AND ANJANA AHUJA
IN GERLACH, NEVADA



CHARLES OMMANNEY / REX FEATURES

Andy Green pilots *Thrust* in another attempt at the land speed record in Nevada. His schedule is punishing but he has shown stamina and grace. Driving round the M25 is just as risky, he says

A NOVELIST could not have crafted a figure more suited to the role of British hero than Andy Green. At 6ft 3in, with blue-green eyes, a square jaw and an ice-cool manner, the RAF pilot cuts a dashing figure in the *Thrust* SSC desert camp.

Squadron Leader Green, 35, who took a double-first in mathematics at Oxford and joined the RAF on graduation, was chosen three years ago from among 32 men who responded to a call to become the fastest man on earth. Most applicants were former or serving pilots; shortlisted applicants had to undergo a battery of IQ and personality tests, a driving assessment by Russell Brooks, the former national rally champion, and a 24-hour overnight test of stamina and co-ordination in a Farnborough heat chamber.

To prepare for the intense heat in the *Thrust* SSC cockpit under the desert sun, Squadron Leader Green, who has flown Phantoms for six years, endured a regime of "extremely hot" baths, twice a day for several weeks. His formidable poise under pressure, essential for this pioneering endeavour, has earned him a reputation in Gerlach, the nearest town, as something of an automaton.

Squadron Leader Green has pursued a punishing schedule since coming out to the desert in early September. He is up at 4.30am for breakfast at 5am. At 6.15am, the *Thrust* team have their first meeting of the day. Squadron Leader Green runs through three A4 pages of checks to ensure the car's 120 sensors are functioning correctly. "It's like a ritual now," he said.

After each run he is debriefed immediately about how the car ran, and then is transported to the waiting press to answer questions. Then it is back to the camp to help out with the car, distribute the report on the day's runs, and have lunch. There are further meetings at 4pm and 6pm.

Gaps in the day are taken up with talking to a steady stream of journalists, autographing T-shirts, and showing the car to land-speed fanatics who have flown in from all over the world. He carries out these duties with grace, regarding himself as "greatly privileged". Squadron Leader Green ensures he is in bed by 9.30pm.

> ‘ Stepping into 'Thrust' is like stepping into a jet fighter, then it's like driving a racing car ’

He is not fazed at all by his role. "I'm not a celebrity," he said, in a corner of the Miner's Club, a British watering hole in Gerlach, on his arrival here three weeks ago. "We've gone beyond the boys-in-the-garage syndrome. If I walk out the door and get knocked over they can replace me in a couple of weeks."

Neither does he feel fear. "Stepping into *Thrust* is like stepping into a jet fighter, and after that, it's exactly like driving a racing car," he said. "I'm just very keen to get the car to a high specification so we can achieve supersonic."

He said he regards climbing Everest as more risky. And he does not contemplate mortality. "You could define driving round the M25 as being close to death."

Green uses electric fuel cocks to control two Rolls-Royce Spey jet engines during his slow acceleration to around 150 mph. Foot pedals governing fuel flow to the engines' afterburners then provide staggering acceleration from 200 to 600mph in roughly 20 seconds, generating a ten-mile dust cloud. Each run burns 240 gallons of kerosene in a minute.

The ten-ton *Thrust* car has a theoretical top speed of 850mph and uses active suspension pioneered on Formula 1 cars and built by Jeremy Bliss, a former consultant to Ayrton Senna, the late Formula One champion. The system can raise the car's rear wheels by four inches in a fraction of a second to maximize downforce and, in principle, prevent the car becoming airborne.

The *Thrust* team also boasts the world's fastest fire engine — a modified Jaguar with a 200-litre tank of fire-fighting foam, a top speed of 140mph and walnut trim. Squadron Leader Green is confident that the "firechase" will not be used: supercomputer simulations and a rocket-powered scale model suggest the shock wave created by passing through the sound barrier at around 750 mph will not destabilise the car.

It is unsurprising, perhaps, that Squadron Leader Green should be so composed. The head of communications, who co-ordinates the runs, is Squadron leader Jayne Millington, his girlfriend. The couple met five years ago at RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, where Squadron Leader Green trained to fly Tornados. Squadron leader Millington, 35, read physics at Oxford but the couple never met during their student years. She helps to manage air defence policy at the Ministry of Defence.

It was Squadron Leader Millington who first saw the advertisement for a driver for *Thrust*. "I saw it and thought it was something Andy might be interested in," she said.

If and when the sound barrier on land is broken, Squadron Leader Green will transfer to RAF Leuchars, in Scotland to train further as a Tornado pilot, and Squadron Leader Millington will move to RAF Buchan in Aberdeen to pursue an air battle management role.

LAND SPEED RACER TERMINOLOGY

☐ Fodding: Foreign Object Detection: combing the desert for stones and other debris that might damage an engine by being sucked into it.
☐ Togometer: literally, "to go" meter; cockpit gauge telling driver distance to go to end of run.
☐ Aoogah button: knob in pit station mobile communications unit that activates warning claxon with a distinctive "aoogah" sound.
☐ Pit station: roped-off compound on lake bed ten miles from Gerlach where car is stored and maintained.
☐ Mazola: slang usage of popular brand name, in this case meaning high grade oil for aero engine hydraulics.
☐ VIP One: Richard Noble's radio call-sign at Black Rock.

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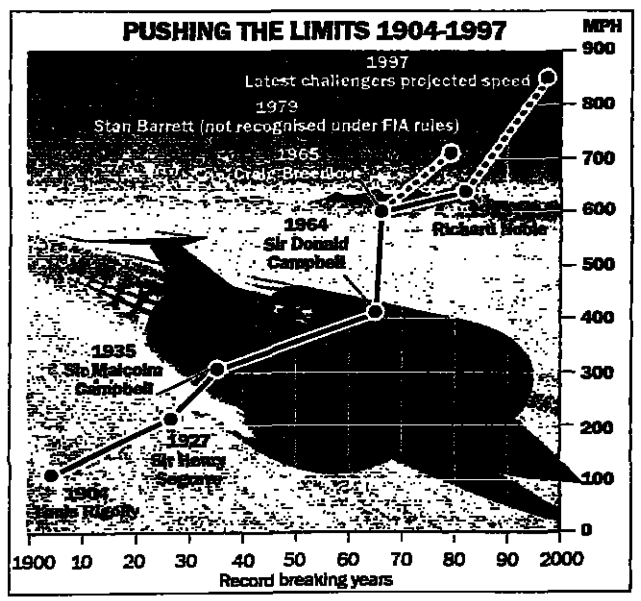

Green: his poise has earned him the reputation of an automaton among the locals

Mir crew uses scrap to repair computer

Moscow: The crew of Russia's Mir space station slept yesterday after a hard night shift fixing the main computer and restoring automatic steering, crucial for a planned docking on Sunday with the US shuttle *Atlantis*.

"The cosmonauts have done a good job during the night and have to sleep now," a Mission Control spokesman said. He added that the three-man crew had to repair the main computer by using spare tools and parts of old malfunctioning computers.

Automatic orientation by ten gyrodine rotating devices, which help to keep the station in a stable position in orbit, was fully restored. The spokesman said Mission Control and the cosmonauts still did not know what kind of "brown substance" the crew saw floating from Mir on Monday. He added that repairs to the air purifying system, which removes carbon dioxide, had not begun.

The spokesman said a video link-up was planned to discuss the situation on Mir and preparations for the *Atlantis* flight. Nasa would then tell the Russians whether it would allow the shuttle mission to go ahead. *(Reuters)*

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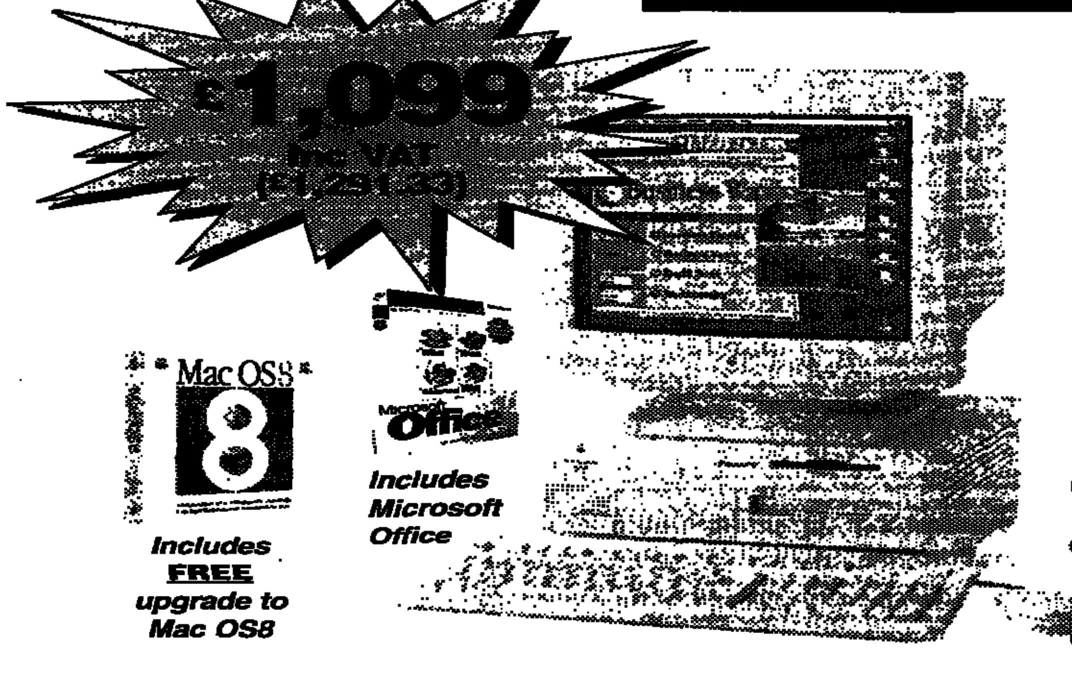

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Cook clashes with senator over UN debt

From James Bone in New York

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, got into an ugly spat with a powerful right-wing American senator yesterday after insisting that Washington should pay its debt to the United Nations "in full and on time".

A spokesman for Senator Jesse Helms, the North Carolina Republican who chairs the Senate foreign relations committee, described as "absolutely not helpful" Mr Cook's criticism of Congress's refusal to pay off all of Washington's $1.5 billion (£937 million) in UN arrears.

In a tart message to Congress, Mr Cook had said during a speech to the UN General Assembly that every country should pay UN dues based on its share of the global economy. "It is not equitable that some members pay their contributions while others do not," he went on. "Britain pays in full and on time. Britain expects every country, however large or however small, to do the same."

Mr Helms, with Democrat Senator Joe Biden, is the architect of a compromise proposal that would repay $900 million of the American debt on condition that Washington's contributions are cut from 25 to 20 per cent of the UN budget over the next three years. Britain pays 5.6 per cent of the UN budget. The United States accounts for about 27 per cent of world economy.

Cook and Albright meet in New York

British officials say the so-called Helms-Biden package is inadequate and are pressing the Clinton Administration to get Congress to sweeten the offer. Mr Cook discussed the financing controversy with Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, over dinner at the British Ambassador's home in New York on Monday.

Marc Thiessen, a spokesman for Senator Helms, said that the bipartisan proposal before Congress deserved support as a genuine effort to reform the world organisation and put its financing on a stable footing.

The brusque Mr Cook had a disastrous meeting with the stately Senator Helms in Washington in May, which the senator interrupted after only 20 minutes of the scheduled half an hour because he found the Foreign Secretary's manner too abrasive.

A congressional source described the encounter as "increasingly unpleasant" and said the two, of different ideological stripes, had "disagreed disagreeably". The row flared again when a British official, travelling with Mr Cook in New York, said the Foreign Secretary knew how difficult it would be to get Congress to improve its offer on UN funding because he had "spent half an hour in a room with Senator Helms".

In his speech to the UN, Mr Cook called for progress to be made on financial reform at the UN by the end of the year so that the organisation "will be able to get on with its job". He also threw his weight behind a Malaysian proposal to add five new permanent members to the 15-nation Security Council, and called for a vote on the plan this autumn.

Under the proposal, Britain, one of five existing permanent members with power of veto, would be asked to withhold its veto for five years while the precise status of the new permanent members was worked out.

Leading article, page 21

Clooney: arranged Hollywood protest

Anti-paparazzi actor left out of the picture

New York: Photographers staged a protest against George Clooney, the actor and anti-paparazzi campaigner, by refusing to take his picture as he arrived for the premiere of his new film *The Peacemaker* (James Bone writes).

Clooney, who plays Dr Doug Ross in the American television series *ER*, was booed by about 60 photographers outside Manhattan's Ziegfeld Theatre.

The actor organised a boycott of Hollywood stars from a major studio because of intrusive coverage by one of its tabloid television programmes and after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, he accused the paparazzi of behaving like crack cocaine dealers.

Celebrity photographers who attend staged events such as film premieres are angry about being grouped with "stalkerazzi" who pursue stars in their private lives.

Divers hope to identify pirate's flagship

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

THE British naval officer who captured Blackbeard in 1718 beheaded the world's most notorious pirate and hung his bloody visage as irrefutable proof from the bowsprit of a warship.

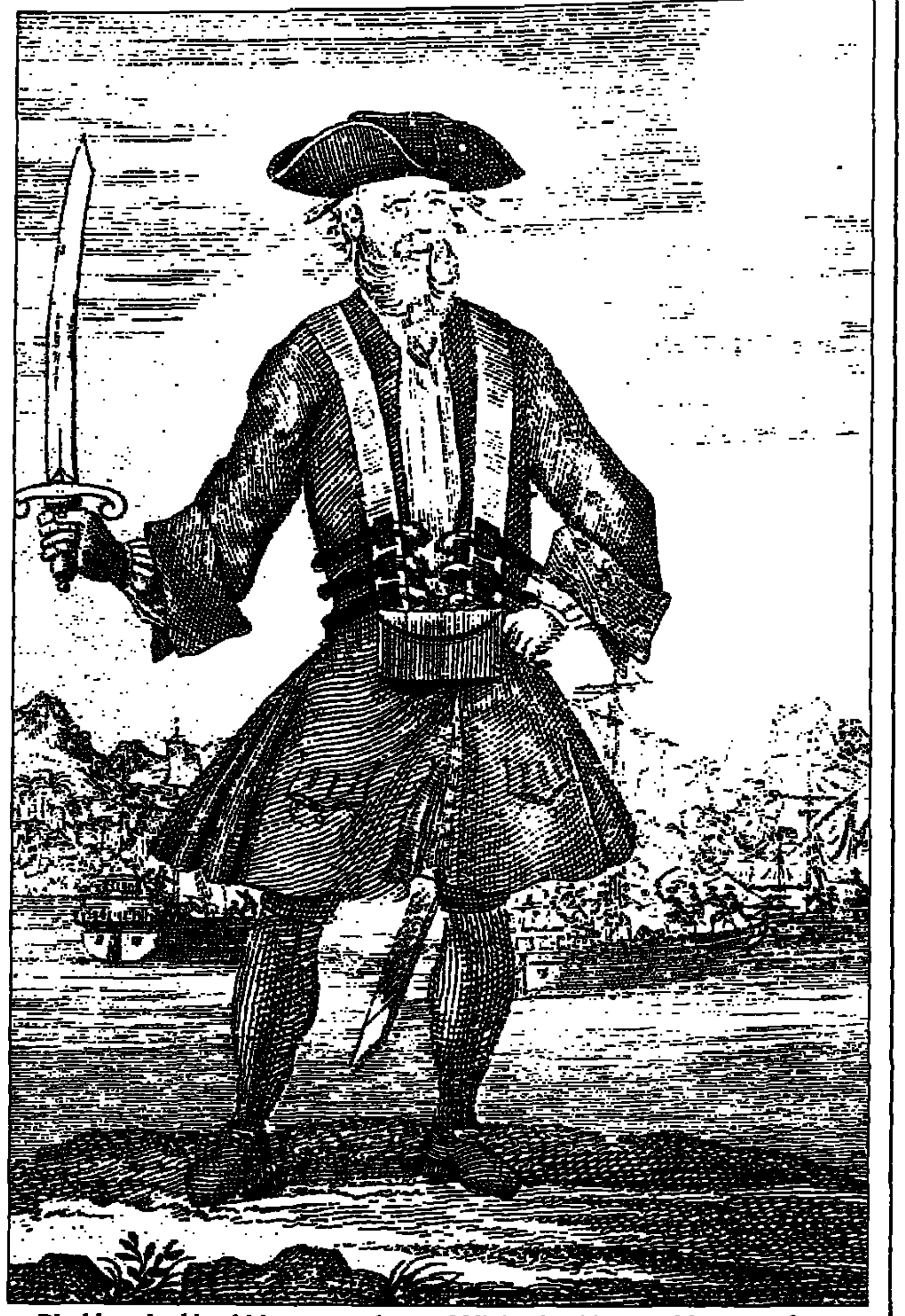
At the end of next week, North Carolina archaeologists hope to explore the shallow depths of the Atlantic Ocean in search of equally convincing evidence of the English pirate's final legacy.

They hope to establish beyond doubt that a mound of waterlogged timbers and rusting metal on the sea bed near Beaufort is the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, the flagship with which Blackbeard terrorised waters from the Carolinas to the Caribbean.

The story goes that the 103ft vessel, stolen a year earlier from the French, sank in June 1718 after hitting a sandbar. Blackbeard is said to have told his lieutenants to go ashore, meet the Governor and ask for a pardon.

He then ordered his remaining crew to haul the treasure and cargo from the *Queen Anne's Revenge* to a smaller sloop with which he continued to pillage until he was captured and beheaded by Lieutenant Robert Maynard five months later. The shipwreck, in about 20ft of water less than a mile offshore, is convenient for archaeologists from the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort who, depending on weather conditions, aim to start removing sand from the hull next month.

Experts have described the ship as the most important discovery of its kind in 20 years — only the second pirate ship to have been found off the US coast. The marine archaeologists are 80 per cent certain it is the Blackbeard flagship. Everyone who has visited the wreck agrees that is bristles with cannon and other artefacts. During two dives last year, a small but impressive collection of items was retrieved, including the brass barrel of a blunderbuss, a 24lb cannonball, and a bell inscribed with the date 1709.



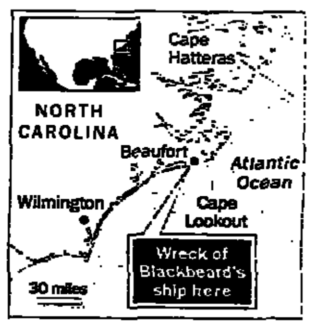
Blackbeard, a bloodthirsty ogre who would light his whiskers with cannon fuses

"Nothing we have says 'this definitely is the *Queen Anne's Revenge*' but everything looks right," said Richard Lawrence who runs the state's underwater archaeology department.

"The sooner we can get back to the wreck and make that determination, the sooner all things, like funding, will come into focus."

It may take five years to establish the vessel's identity but the discovery of the *Queen Anne's Revenge* could significantly alter what is already known about Blackbeard and others who belonged to the golden age of piracy in the 18th century.

Although Blackbeard has been assumed to be the nickname of Edward Teach, scholars remain uncertain whether his name was Thatch or Theach, or whether he was born in Bristol, London, Philadelphia or Jamaica.



While historical records are sparse, the mythology is enough. He was an ogre, tall, bloodthirsty, with a booming voice, savage appetite and a bushy black beard that hung down to his belly. He would often twist it into pigtails and light it with cannon fuses.

His legacy has already brought millions of tourists to the North Carolina coast where he died off Ocracoke Island, near Cape Hatteras.

WORLD SUMMARY

20,000 flee fighting in Cambodia

Phnom Penh: An estimated 20,000 new Cambodian refugees are reported to have fled to Thailand to escape fighting in western Cambodia (writes Caroline Gluck).

The Government says the clashes followed a dispute over territory among former Khmer Rouge guerrillas who defected to the Cambodian Army last year. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is currently assessing plans to repatriate some of the 25,000 Cambodians who crossed into Thailand last month.

Tour bus tragedy

Vienna: An Austrian motorist died and 11 British tourists were injured, one seriously, when their tour bus reversed in a car park, partially blocking a lane of the highway near Regau, 100 miles west of Vienna. The rear of the coach was struck by a car on the highway, killing the driver. *(AFP)*

Appeal backfires

Monticello: Aundra Akins, 18, convicted of the murder of a British tourist in Florida in 1993, was given a life sentence on appeal, overturning his original 27-year sentence. Akins, who had pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, appealed on a technicality. His lawyer said the longer sentence was inappropriate. *(AP)*

New runway

Paris: France decided to double the number of runways at Charles De Gaulle airport north of Paris rather than build a third airport to handle the capital's rising volume of air traffic. Jean-Claude Gayssot, Transport Minister, vowed to do more to lessen aircraft noise to placate angry residents. *(Reuter)*

Direct line to jail

Buenos Aires: Hector Hugo Marcone, 40, a university student, was detained for making almost 2,000 threatening phone calls to businessmen and leaders of Argentina's Jewish community, federal police said. *(AFP)*

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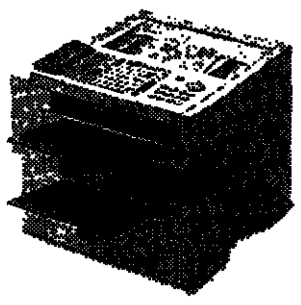
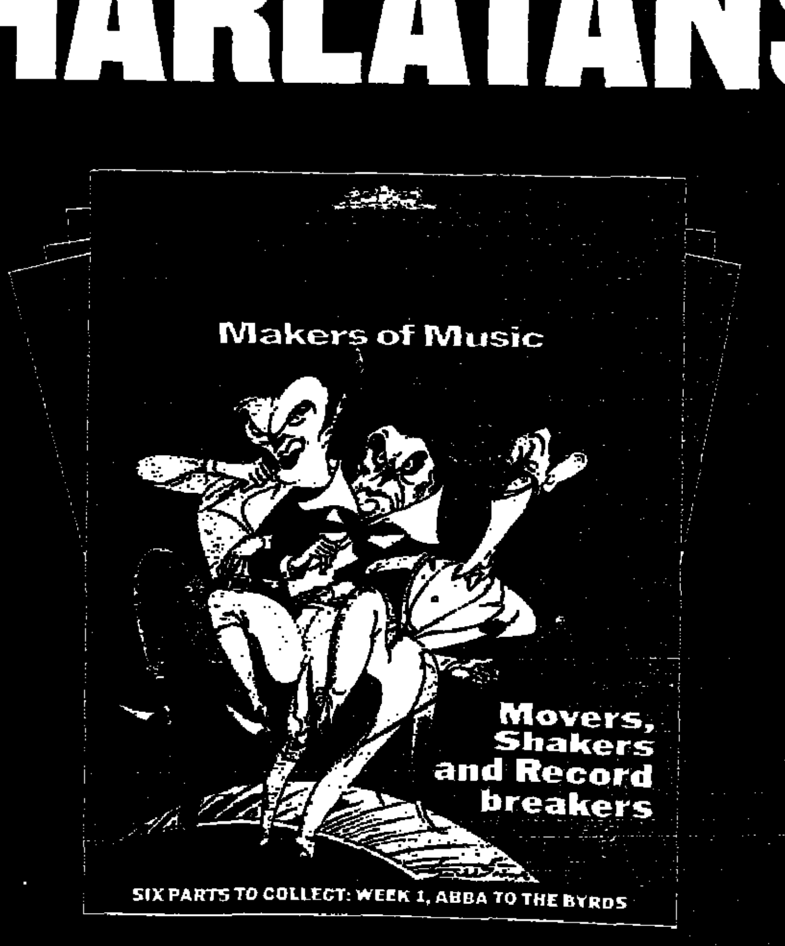


THE SUNDAY TIMES

ARE OASIS THE CHARLATANS?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Li Peng tells West to help the poor

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

IN A speech filled with almost extinct Maoist rhetoric, Li Peng, the Prime Minister of China, told the World Bank yesterday that the West must stop giving orders to the underdeveloped world and listen to its demands.

Mr Li's speech, a vintage example of his hardline grim-visaged style, contrasted with the address the night before by Zhu Rongji, the Vice-Premier, who delighted his audience with his wit and charm.

"As the Chinese saying goes, seeing it once is better than hearing about it a hundred times," Mr Li said. The audience was left in no doubt that while in economic affairs China was rapidly relaxing and reforming, in politics it remained as rigid as Mr Li's body language.

Mr Li said the developing countries "have freed themselves from imperialist and colonialist domination and won national liberation and independence after centuries of foreign oppression and enslavement". At this moment in his speech he looked up to give his first and only smile.

The rest of his speech was aimed generally at the West and at the United States in particular, as the Americans in the hall — where Mr Li last appeared in Hong Kong for the handover ceremonies — commented afterwards.

The prosperity of a small number of countries, Mr Li noted, "cannot last long on the basis of the poverty and backwardness of the majority of countries". To help poor countries is "a shared responsibility of the international community", which must furnish funds and technical assistance.

Aide who was sacked by Clinton begins his revenge

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON last night suffered the first instalment in the revenge of Harold Ickes, the sacked senior aide whose copious notes may hold the key to irregular White House fundraising for the Democratic re-election effort.

A memorandum leaked yesterday indicated that Mr Clinton called a wealthy Californian businessman from the White House and received a $50,000 (£31,000) campaign donation two weeks later. The strongest evidence yet to surface that the President tried to raise money from the White House, a violation of federal election law, the note may be the start of a vast treasure chest of information kept by Mr Ickes during his four years as Deputy Chief of Staff.

In one corner, Mr Ickes had scrawled the words "BC called", referring to Bill Clinton. He had ringed the name of John Torkelson, an investment banker from San Diego, and written beside his name, "50,000" and "25, 25". Within two weeks of the 1994 memorandum, Princeton Venture Research, Mr Torkelson's company, had sent two cheques, each for $25,000.

Ickes: his memo hints at illegal fundraising

The emergence of the note came as Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, launched a 30-day inquiry to determine whether an independent prosecutor should review all calls made by Mr Clinton and Al Gore, the Vice-President. Mr Gore has admitted making 46 calls from his White House office while the President has repeatedly claimed he has no memory of making any such solicitations.

But it is the role of Mr Ickes which may prove pivotal in both the Justice Department investigation and Senate campaign finance hearings. He appeared in private before the Senate this week but has yet to be called publicly.

Republicans in the Senate, employing documents from both the files of the Democratic National Committee and from Mr Ickes, have also compiled strong evidence that a series of 103 political coffee meetings at the White House were staged to raise $26.4 million. That may be just the tip of the iceberg.

For 25 years, Mr Ickes, 58, has been a close friend of Mr Clinton. He has been caught up in almost every scandal from Arkansas to Washington and described himself in the White House as the "director of the sanitation department".

He was unceremoniously sacked after Mr Clinton's re-election, a pawn in the hiring of Erskine Bowles, the more conservative new Chief of Staff.

S.THINAKARAN / AP

Schoolgirls in Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital, wearing masks to protect themselves against the haze

Haze forces emergency in Sarawak

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE haze overhanging much of South-East Asia reached new danger levels yesterday as 2,000 Malaysian firemen prepared to leave for Indonesia to help tackle the jungle fires that have caused the smoke and led to a declaration of emergency in Sarawak. The Malaysian Government is considering evacuating the entire populations of Sarawak and Sabah, its two provinces in Borneo.

The density of the haze, which has reduced visibility to arm's length in Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, and in many other towns has forced airports to close and prevented relief workers and supplies from reaching those affected. Reports said more than 5,000 people in Sarawak have sought medical treatment.

The pollutant index in Kuching yesterday reached 839 — well over the 500 level at which the haze is considered very hazardous. An index of 350 is equivalent to smoking 20 cigarettes a day.

In bustling Kuching, schools and most businesses were closed. Mike Derianto, a factory owner, said: "No one goes outside unless they have to. And everything smells and tastes of smoke."

In Kalimantan, the Indonesian half of Borneo, an official in Balikpapan said: "We are not sure whether the Malaysian firemen will be able to get here."

Environmental movements in Indonesia blamed the Government for not being strict enough on plantation owners who have cleared and burnt at least 750,000 acres of forest in the past two months.

The Foreign Office advised British tourists to Malaysia to "limit outdoor activity" if travelling to affected areas.

Japan and US sign pact on defence

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United States and Japan yesterday agreed a defence pact which, despite Chinese misgivings, would give Japanese troops a non-combatant role in support of US forces in any regional conflict.

The accord, announced in New York by the Foreign and Defence Secretaries of the two allies, comes after pressure from America for increased Japanese involvement in Asia's defence following the Cold War. "We have rewritten our partnership to meet the challenges of this new era," said Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State.

It revises defence guidelines established in 1978 and pushes the limits of Japan's pacifist post-Second World War constitution, which bans its "Self-Defence Forces" from military operations beyond its 200-mile territorial waters.

About 40 kinds of "rear-end" support that Japan could offer include search-and-rescue and evacuating foreigners from crisis zones, supplying food and fuel to US forces and transporting US soldiers to US vessels at sea.

Japan was persuaded to assume the new role by growing regional tensions, particularly the threat of famine-ravaged North Korea's collapse. Beijing is unhappy at the idea of Japan providing support to American troops in situations such as the recent Taiwan Straits stand-off.

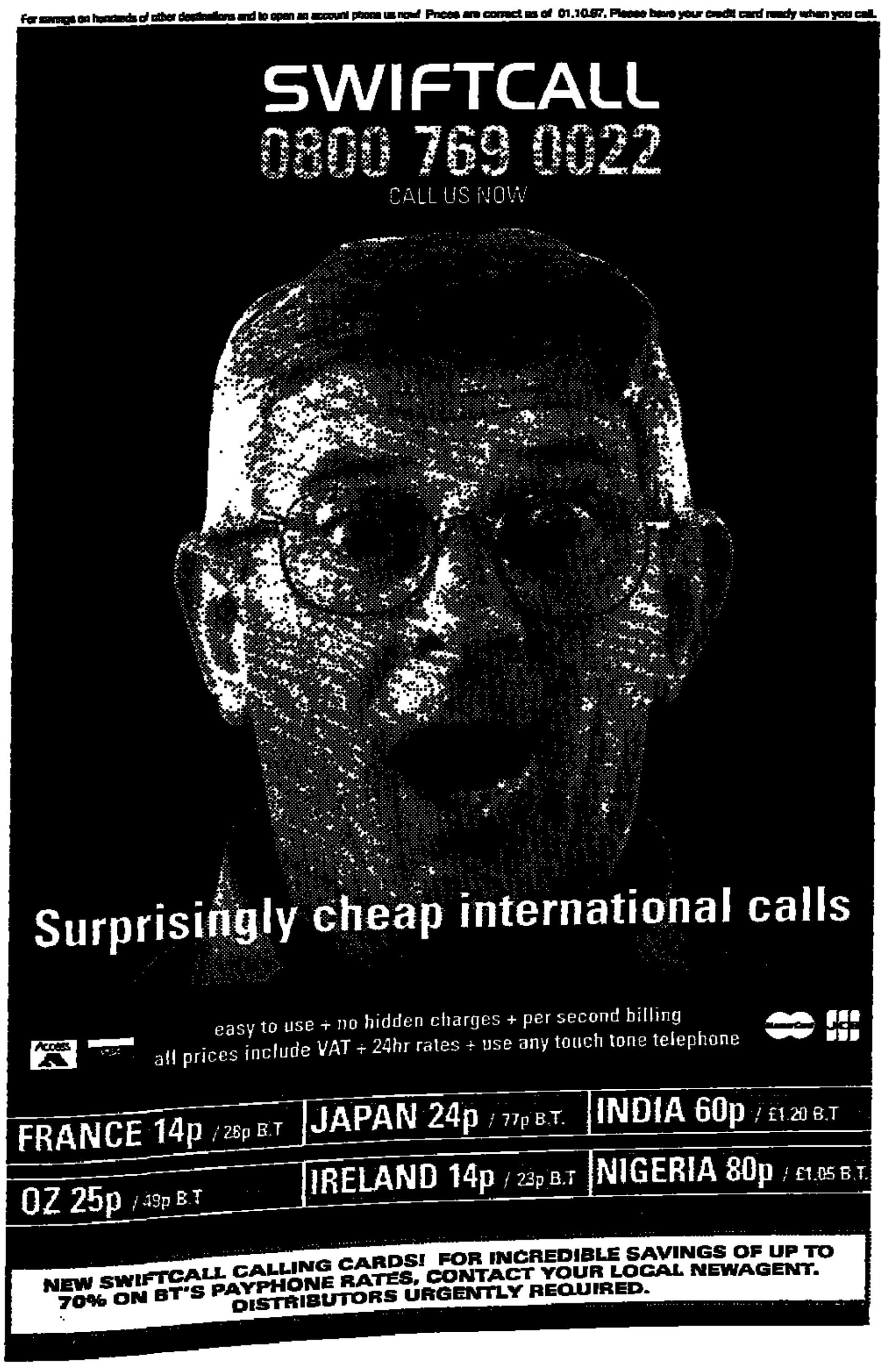
Elderly nuns defy Vatican eviction

Madrid: A group of rebel Spanish nuns yesterday became squatters in their own convent after refusing to obey Vatican authorities who have demanded that they move out (Giles Tremlett writes).

The five elderly nuns yesterday remained ensconced at their Convent of The Assumption in the town of Espinosa de Henares, near Madrid, after ignoring a Vatican order for them to leave at midnight on Monday. A church spokesman said the nuns were too old to keep the convent going and warned that they would be evicted in a month's time if they continued their sit-in. The nuns have been told they also face expulsion from the Order of the Poor Clares.

More than a hundred convents are estimated to have closed their doors over the past 20 years as older nuns have died and the supply of young novices has dried up. Some 700 convents remain, but these are being slowly shut down or merged.

The nuns at Espinosa de Henares, aged between 50 and 90, have become popular heroines, though some of them have spent more than 50 years cloistered inside the convent and have never been seen.



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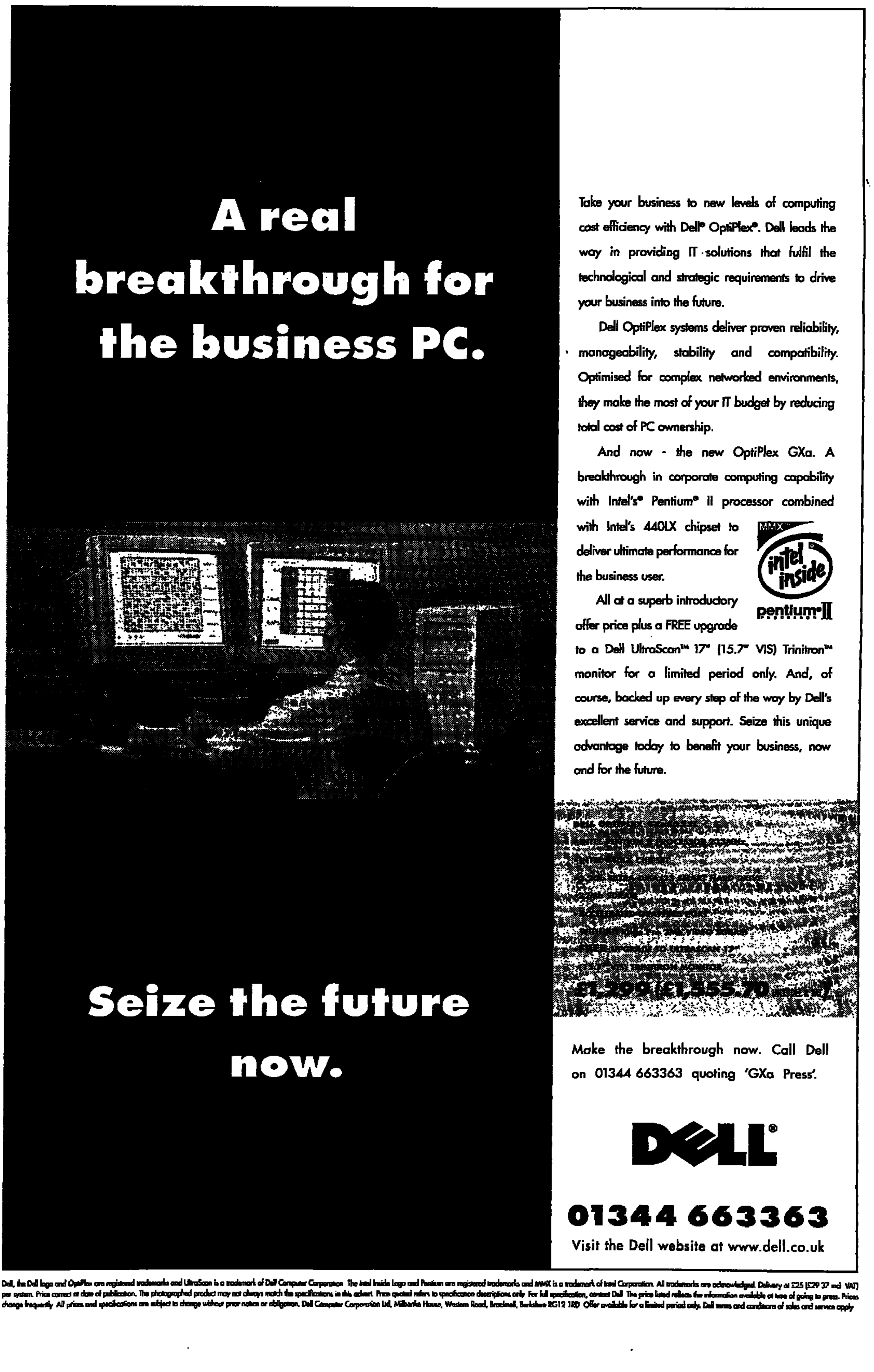

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JANE SHILLING
GETS DRESSED

A longing for something fancy

There are, I dare say you *will* have noticed, an awful lot of Clean Lines about this season. Sharply cut little jackets, and skirts abruptly curtailed like the petticoats of the old lady in the nursery rhyme, and acres of minimalist tailoring.

This is not a look that comes very easily to an English girl. It requires a good deal of maintenance, for a start. In France and America, Doing Neat presents no problem. Whether more *soignée* (the French), or just more hygienic (the Americans) than the rest of us, these are nations where attractiveness is perceived to be in direct proportion to the amount of effort put in. The brushing of the hair, the manicuring of the nails, the painstaking application of foundation and powder and lipliner, the rounding up of matching bag and shoes and toning (but not matching) scarf and gloves are second nature in Paris and New York.

In England, however, we do not feel quite comfortable with all that time spent in the beauty parlour which could more usefully be employed elsewhere — planting wallflowers, writing novels, out on the raz with our girlfriends. Why on earth (we *think*) pay a fortune to some ninny in a white overall to varnish your fingernails when you can just as easily do it yourself, while gleaning all the latest scandal down a red-hot telephone line from your friend Amanda?

Besides, our husbands and boyfriends are ambivalent about our attempts at Doing Neat. They think uniform chic is a jolly good thing in its proper place — on Wrens, and policewomen, and nurses, and Brown Owls, and other such figures of masculine reverie. But when they see us striding about in spike heels and razor-cut pinstripe peg-tops with two-inch turnups it makes them feel all *funny*.

> When men see us in heels and pinstripes, they feel all funny

This is not, in itself, sufficient reason for backing away from a sharp new look. But it is a fact that, at the bottom of the soul of the most dedicated British minimalist, there lurks the longing for Something Fancy. No doubt the origins of this passion for fantastical little bits of lace and velvet and embroidery can be traced back to the Englishwoman's Childhood — the treasures of the dressing-up box and, in the case of embroidery, the hours spent working cross-stitch daisies on tray-cloths and repeating one's initials in lines of wobbly chain stitch on aprons and shoe bags and domestic science overalls.

But embroidery possesses other virtues besides childhood nostalgia. It has, like pearls, the generous quality of making one look instantly prettier. Simple embroidered skirts and shifts have a careless glamour that is the very opposite of studied. And for all its apparent delicacy, embroidery is durable stuff. A child's jammy fingerprint, or a cigarette carelessly wielded are death to a pristine white shirt. On an embroidered dress (one discovered at Oxfam, perhaps, rather than the pricey gems shown here) they fade into the design, appearing, if they show at all, as no more than honourable battle scars — or you could always revive your old skills and embroider another little flower around the mark.

Lilac beaded skirt, £275 by Matthew Williamson at Browns; cranberry cashmere cardigan, £369, Cerruti 1881; camisole top from Portobello Market; silver heart necklace, £75 from Detail, Symons Street SW1; gold bag, £210 by Matthew Williamson at à la Mode, Hans Crescent SW1

Brown embroidered leaf skirt, £173 by Gharani Strök at Matches; nude and black embroidered bird cashmere tank top, £304 by Clements Ribeiro at Selfridges, London W1; antique silver charm necklace, £120 by Detail, Symons Street SW1

Embroidering on a theme

Try delicate decoration for a look that is sweet and sharp, says Style Editor **Grace Bradberry**

Lilac and gold embroidered bouclé skirt, £565 by Collette Dinnigan at Browns, South Molton Street W1; purple cashmere tank top, £320 by Rebecca Moses at Browns; pink rose beaded choker, £375 by Erickson Beamon, Elizabeth Street SW1

Gold stretch camisole top, £149 by Cerruti 1881; black and gold lace embroidered skirt, £468 by Elspeth Gibson; black velvet metal spike heels, £230 by Gucci. Photographer: Ryan Sullivan; stylist: Deborah Brett; hair: Cim Mahony at The Industry for Shipton, Leighton and Lowe; make-up: Jochen Fuchs; model: Caroline Salisbury at Models 1

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

Your chance to see the best of London Fashion Week

To celebrate London Fashion Week, *Times* readers are offered exclusive tickets for catwalk shows to be held at the Natural History Museum, London SW7, from October 1-3, 1997 for only £14, with a limited number of front row seats for £25.

Vidal Sassoon presents *The Private View*, featuring the clothes of 20 top British designers, including Amanda Wakeley, Ben de Lisi, Ally Capellino, Clements Ribeiro, Pearce Fionda, Workers for Freedom, Nicole Farhi and Helen David, right. The shows, which support Macmillan Cancer Relief, will unveil the designers' autumn-winter collections and give a preview of spring-summer 1998 collections.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
FESTIVAL OF FASHION

Visitors will have the chance to purchase discounted end-of-season clothes courtesy of BAA McArthur Glen, the designer-outlet specialist. Every reader who attends a show will be given a Vidal Sassoon goodie bag.

The catwalk show times are: Wed Oct 1, 6pm and 8pm; Thurs Oct 2, 12noon, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm; Fri Oct 3, 12noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm.

Two exclusive fashion forums

Key figures from the fashion world discuss the future of British fashion on Saturday, October 4, in two fashion forums (£7.50, students £5). **Forum One: The Industry**, at 1pm, will address the balance between creativity and commercialism and how those interested in a career in fashion can make an impact. Following that, **Forum Two: The Image**, at 4pm, focuses on fashion's relationship with the media and role in society and asks what inspires designers. Speakers include **Colin McDowell**, fashion historian, **Vidal Sassoon**, **Hetta Scherman** of Models 1, **Wayne Hemingway**, creative director of Red or Dead, and designers **Ozwald Boateng** and **Roland Klein**.

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TM 2/97

Meditation, mysticism and magic

Holistic practitioners can give the impression that enlightenment is only a head massage away. But glimpsing wisdom takes a little longer, says **John Lloyd**

GRAHAM TROTT

A latterday hippy at Glastonbury. Even as the holistic world is still wrapped about in Sixties hippy exclusivism at one extreme, it seeks to insert itself into the "straight" world at the other

The audience, faced with an invitation to be sexy, split into those who bolted for the door and those who stayed and tried their best. The teacher, Leonora Lightman, had told them how to (as the name of the talk had it) "open up to ecstacy"; she had described how the sexual act made the partners in it whole — as the female part received and the male part gave. She demonstrated, with sweeping arm gestures, how the male gave through his member to the woman through her member to her heart — and how the woman gave from her heart to the male heart, thence to the male member and thus completed the circle. She completed her lecture by asking the audience to choose a partner and repeat the gestures with each other. Hence the exodus of some half of the audience: though the remainder seemed to enjoy the experience.

Lightman had used striking language. She said that in the transformation of sexual energy into love — the method is known as tantra — the partners had no need of being beggars, pleading for favours — but become gods or goddesses, kings and queens, divinely or regally bestowing sexual energy upon each other. Sex was not an end in itself, but a way to find wholeness, balance and peace.

> Sex was a way to find wholeness, balance and peace

It was terribly easy to mock. Sex is still funny in Britain, and the collision of images of kings and queens coupled in joyful meditation with the reality of the audience — some dowdy, some unkempt, all sweating in the heat of the room — was to invite thoughts of some notional *Carry on Tantra* romp.

The session was given on the curtained stage of the old Camden Town Hall towards the end of August, part of a weekend Holistic Festival. The big hall beyond the stage was full of other occasions for mockery — such as Chris Gosselin, dressed in embroidered doublet, who talked about the magic world of the Celtic faery and sold tapes of his stories set against medieval music; a stall which warned us that we were harmlessly deluding each other and amusing the rational interloper. But something nags at the mind, as that conclusion begins to form.

First, though the people who are seeking to cajole you to buy, or be massaged, or share your miseries with them can be hard to take, others are impressive enough: straight talking, not hustling, clearly convinced by their own particular medium and its message. Secondly, their various messages tend to make one composite message — which is that there is more in the mind and body than modern life allows one to discover and deploy, and that a few techniques can help to release these hidden mental and physical treasures.

Quite a lot of it is common sense. Even the tantric sex sessions are telling you to pay attention to what you are doing, and try to do it wholeheartedly, without being crippled by inhibition or allowing your activities to become routine and empty of meaning. Throughout the wafts of incense and the blandishments of the meditation hucksters could be heard the tones of everyone's grandmother or mother, telling you to slow down, eat properly and slowly and make sure you know it's right before you take the leap.

Before much of this hugely varied holistic world, the interloper finds himself bemused, with an obscure sense that there may be something there, or even that there must be something there, and maybe he could experience it if he could suspend scepticism and let it flow in.

But increasingly, the holistic world flows in anyway: even as it is still wrapped about in Sixties hippy exclusivism at one extreme, it seeks to insert itself into the "straight" world at the other. The Holistic — or "New Age" publisher, Brainwave, puts out two information books — the thick *Holistic London* and the vast *Holistic Marketing Directory*: they list 50 types of psychotherapies, 60 types of body therapies, hundreds of shops, services, communities, centres, workshops, retreats, holistic holidays, foodshops, journals, homoeopathic pharmacies, air and water purifiers, biofeedback machines and dating agencies.

These directories, and the Holistic Festival, point to a world which has burgeoned hugely since the realisation that God was dead and had, by dying, cleared a space for a multiplicity of gods — whether at the apex of a hierarchy of masters looking after each planet or capable of being emulated by partners in tantric sex sessions. On the market test to which we subject everything, it was working well — more and more people were buying more and more things, services and enlightenment from more and more merchants, therapists and gurus. Surely that means that some of these people are being satisfied — finding their lives enriched?

But it cannot, in the end, shake off the scent of latter-day shamanism: of a world in which enlightenment is only a head massage and the intonement of a few "oms" away. In groping back for a "natural" way to live, through the encrustations of modern living and mass consumption and mechanistic science, the holistic practitioners are trapped between their newfound marketability and the realisation — which some must have — that if they are to propose anything of worth, it must come with the warning that this is a lifetime's endeavour. Faith in a hierarchy of interplanetary masters does not come easy: or if it does, it merely confirms the apparent kookiness of the belief.

I met, last year, two women who had sat in wooden boxes for the three years at a Buddhist monastery in Scotland. One of them said afterwards that she felt a little better, clearer in her mind, but still had a long way to go before she glimpsed wisdom. One can be over-impressed by stamina, or courage. But it seems right that wisdom takes a little longer.

MEDIA

Training reporters how to survive in a war zone

Pages 23,24

Shameless self-publicity + Labour's pay poser + Age of enjoyment + BBC blunder

Currie's cruel try at spice

Nigella Lawson

"THERE is no good time to announce something like this," says Edwina Currie, announcing the end of her 25-year marriage as she proceeds on the publicity tour for her new novel, *She's Leaving Home*. But before we even get on to the delicate question of timing, we should perhaps ask why she feels it incumbent upon her to make an announcement at all.

I don't get it. Is it of such earth-shattering significance to any of us that a failed politician who's gone on to write sleazy books is getting divorced? It takes a particularly ripe combination of self-importance and insensitivity to relay your private dealings in public in quite such a way.

Then there is the way she's done it. Even if I happen to feel that her marriage and its dissolution is a private matter of no consequence to the public at large, I concede that if she and Mr Currie had split up without making such an announcement it might have generated more interest. I can see, at any rate, the logic of the argument even if I have little sympathy with the reasoning behind it.

But still, the chosen route seems scarcely calculated to defuse gossip and comment. There is an announcement, and there is an *announcement*. A bald statement issued in a solicitor's dead prose is one thing: having Mrs Currie make arch or louche or downright brutal comments of her own is quite another.

It may show no more than a coarse sensibility to say "I wish I could give you a string of lovers, but I can't," but it is cruel to add, of her husband: "He wants to watch TV and I want to be on TV. There isn't a toyboy — I wish!"

I can't imagine what sort of person would feel it's all right to talk publicly like that. And there's worse. Mrs Currie informs us all that she knew the marriage was over when she realised she didn't miss her husband when they were parted. Once you know that he, some years back, said, "Frankly, I miss her when she isn't around," you realise the stiletto-sharp aggression behind her remark, for all that this is an "amicable split". Though perhaps I have no right to call Mrs Currie cruel, when I, by repeating her remarks, am hardly showing myself sensitive to her husband's feelings.

There are *many*, anyway, who would no doubt defend her behaviour, holding it up as an example yet again of her admirable honesty and forthrightness. It is very much the modern way to find all honesty admirable. But surely sometimes a little dishonesty in the form of reticence might be more laudable.

Reticence ain't her strong suit. She wants to shine, to be in the spotlight, and her brilliance lies in persuading us to take her on her own account. She wants to feel that she is a brainy, sexy, foxy lady, and somehow we gladly talk about this hippy, lippy woman, with a face that's a cross between a horse and a monkey (and now, I suppose, I *am* being cruel), as if that's what she were.

And all this sex thing, too. Far from seeing the much-touted raunchiness as a sign of sensuality and confidence, I begin to worry for her. If you need to draw people's attention to your own sexual attractiveness, let them know about your appetites and like to refer to your house winkingly as penis-shaped, then lady, I think you got a problem.

The rise of confusion

WELL it has always been said that the Tories have their sex scandals while the Labour Party gets into financial trouble: and so much for the new political climate, for nothing's changed. The Government is certainly not behaving with impropriety, but for incompetence it is giving the memory of the Major regime a run for its — our — money.

What I can't get straight — no more than any of them can, it would appear — is whether members of the Cabinet are meant to be pocketing their £16,500 pay rise gratefully, or giving it up gracefully.

One minute it looks as if — as one minister puts it — the "hairshirt policy" is PM-approved (and you can let those initials stand for whoever you like) and the next we are given to believe that faith in restraint has given in to belief in remuneration. And the Opposition isn't playing it any better: little Hague's admission that he gave back the money and ran doesn't come across as dignified but, rather, teacher's-pet nerdy.

Now it transpires that Blair doesn't think much of the plan for his Cabinet colleagues to accept the pay rise but give it to charity, for all that it's the clever, lawyerly solution. And I can't think why some of his number are so keen on it. It fudges the issue and does nothing to keep the wages bill down. But giving it to charity always seems such a noble thing to do that no one seems to mind how ignoble the motivation.

When I decided, after the birth of my first child, not to claim child benefit because I could manage without it, everyone but everyone, no matter what their politics were, told me how wrong I was. (In fact I'm thinking of claiming it now, *and* for my second — but things do change.) But what I was most regularly told — even by my doctor — was that even if I didn't need the money, I should still claim it and give it to charity.

The idea of taking, and making it seem like giving, is surely as financially as it is morally confused. As far as I can see there is nothing wrong with taking what is due to one, but nothing saintly about refusing what isn't needed.

Let everyone make his or her mind up as to what to do with the prospective pay rise; morality is not enforced by committee. Not that this ever needed to be cast as a moral issue. Shades of another Major mistake here: perhaps this will be Blair's very own "back to basics".

Older but much wiser

OH HOW I do like a survey that tells me that life is fuller, richer, happier and juicier when we are no longer in our twenties. Those of us who are no longer in our twenties could have told them that without an NOP study on the subject. Being in one's teens is dreadful, being in one's twenties is a trial. I was relieved when I found out that turning 30 not only wasn't as painful as I had thought it would be, but life actually got better after it. But then, there's no point talking, when it suits us, as if 30 now was what 30 used to be. Of course, it increases shock value if we profess ourselves amazed that women of 35 are not sporting flesh-coloured popsocks and a soft perm, but the real reason being 30 — and maybe even 40: that's what they say and I'm happy(ish) to take it on trust — is cool is not because being older's easier, but because we're all younger for longer than we used to be.

Hampered

CAN THE BBC get nothing right? There is something extravagant, inappropriate and hideously naff about sending out Marks & Spencer hampers to people by way of thanking them for working on Diana specials over the time of her death.

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Atomic principle brought to life

Canadian director Atom Egoyan tells **Sheila Johnston** how becoming a father brought out his humanity

For someone who makes films about alienation, disintegrating families and a startling range of sexual dysfunction, Atom Egoyan seems uncommonly well-adjusted. Confident, friendly and articulate, he is married to his longtime collaborator, the actress Arsinee Khanjian, with whom he has a four-year-old son.

But there are indications of a certain perversity: for instance, his first film after the birth of their child is *The Sweet Hereafter*. Adapted from Russell Banks's novel, it traces the aftermath of a schoolbus crash that devastates a rural Canadian community. Is this not a curious choice of project for a new father?

"For parents it is the ultimate nightmare; there is nothing worse," he says. "I don't know if I would have embarked on it if I had known we were going to have a child. But now the film is completed and I have to talk about it. I find it far more difficult, especially since we take my son with us everywhere.

"I am not of the belief that, in creating a fiction about something, you prepare the path for it actually happening. In *As If*, Blake Morrison's book about the James Bulger case, there's a chapter in which he chronicles every possible way that one might lose a child, and I found that very healing, very liberating, in a ghoulish sort of way. What I do, too, is express our worst possible fears so that perhaps we are able to understand them."

> ‘I express our worst fears so we are able to understand them’

Egoyan has been edging away from low-budget, strictly arthouse movies such as *Speaking Parts* and *Family Viewing* towards superior production values and complex but (relatively) linear narratives: his previous film, *Exotica*, explored the entwined relationships between the staff and clientele of an erotic dancing club. *The Sweet Hereafter*, which won the Grand Prix (second only to the Golden Palm) at Cannes, is widely thought to be his most accessible movie yet. And although it has become a commonplace to describe his films as cerebral, detached, even frosty, one is struck by the way that, when discussing them, he constantly cites events from his own life.

Take his pervasive theme of loss (it turns up yet again in his next project, *Felicia's Journey*, adapted from William Trevor's Whitbread Prize-winning novel about a pregnant Irish girl seeking the man who left her in the lurch). "Years ago someone I knew disappeared," Egoyan says. "I read in the newspaper that she had gone missing at a certain time, and I was absolutely sure I had spoken to her on the phone after that point and that she had told me who she was going to meet. I was investigated by the police and put under hypnosis to retrieve that name. I never did, and they never found her. I was only 19, and it left a strong impression."

The biggest loss in Egoyan's own life has been his country. Of Armenian descent but born in Egypt, he moved to Victoria as a toddler and shed his own culture and language to become almost seamlessly Canadian. "This idea of how we construct ourselves is something that shaped my own early childhood," he says. "That's why in many of my films the central characters are looking for personality, looking for some way to claim themselves.

"An Armenian journalist told me he saw the whole of *The Sweet Hereafter* as a very clear metaphor for the Armenian genocide. The more I think of it the more persuasive that is. It might well be the thing that attracted me to this story: this nation where you can't look past your grandparents is something most Armenians just accept, but it is so unresolved at a political and emotional level because the perpetrators have never really admitted that it has happened.

"There's an absurdity about it which defines a lot of what I do. Many people expect me at some point to make a film about the Armenian genocide in a literal way, but I'm suspicious of those kinds of movies, and it would make for less interesting work if I did."

That work has not only been in the cinema: Egoyan has directed extensively for television, including such popular series as *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and *The Twilight Zone*, and mounted installations at this year's Venice Biennale and at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. But his present passion is for opera. His first production, last autumn, was *Salome*, for the Canadian Opera Company. "I guess they thought someone who had directed a film called *Exotica* would be a natural for *Salome*. It's all about people watching, and not receiving the gaze back, about frustrated desire, and so it was right up my alley. I set the opera in a modern sanatorium where there's a lot of surveillance. I took away the kitschy sense of the palace that has made it unwatchable in some ways."

As one would expect, Egoyan brought to the production a film-maker's touch: Salome's Dance of the Seven Veils is represented indirectly by a back-projected film revealing her past. "At the turn of the last century people were bombarded with words, and so Oscar Wilde's use of language to choke the characters was a very Victorian expression of hysteria. I tried to show this court overwhelmed with images instead."

British opera-goers will have a chance to see his work next June, when he will be directing the world premiere of Gavin Bryars's new opera, *Dr Ox's Experiment*, for English National Opera. He is also writing the libretto for *Elsewhereless*, with music by the contemporary Canadian composer Rodney Sharman, which will open in Toronto next spring.

Asked what attracts him to opera, his reply does not come as a surprise: "Restrictions. You have to go with what is there, and you are serving the music. I find that quite liberating. Of course, when it doesn't work it's excruciating, but there is something exciting about that too."

● The Sweet Hereafter *opens in Britain on Friday*

"I don't know if I would have embarked on it if I had known we were going to have a child," Atom Egoyan says of his new film, *The Sweet Hereafter*

Wrong foot forward

DANCE

Sleeping Beauty
Orchard, Dartford

THERE is no stopping Harold King. His London City Ballet may have lurched from one crisis to another, but when it finally folded last year no one expected King to retire quietly. Now he's back with another company, City Ballet of London, and its first new production is an original staging of *The Sleeping Beauty*, a venture King must have hoped would get his enterprise off to a good start.

Unfortunately for King, a false start is more like it. There is so much wrong with this well-intended production that no amount of remedial attention can salvage it.

The production is the handiwork of Michael Rolnick, a choreographer of modest experience whose *Sleeping Beauty* commission marks the first time he has made a full-length ballet. Faced with the enormous baggage that accompanies any *Sleeping Beauty*, Rolnick has chosen to eschew all the conventions of Petipa's 19th-century staging. This is a *Sleeping Beauty* without tutus or pointe shoes, and without the fairytale trappings of Aurora's wedding.

Scrapping history and starting again is certainly no bad thing. Mark Morris and Matthew Bourne have enjoyed enormous success taking liberties with Tchaikovsky's two other ballets, *Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*. But they had a clear idea of what they wanted to do, and the talent to see it through.

Is Rolnick's *Sleeping Beauty* trying to say something? I'm not sure. There is an obvious attempt to place Aurora's sexual maturation at the heart of the storytelling, but Rolnick is too timorous to really go for the jugular of tradition. Morris and Bourne were also well served by their designers; Rolnick is not.

It is customary in narrative ballet for choreography to reveal character and develop plot. Rolnick's language is so poorly defined, so without purpose, that it does neither. Occasionally he produces a vibrant step or two, but phrasing and punctuation are elusive.

Aurora's choreography, and especially the Rose Adagio, whirls by in a cloud of vacuity; there is no sense of her specialness, no emotional resonance in her duets with the Prince, no physical daring. And the poor Prince — his solo in the vision scene is excruciating, awkward, tasteless. The Fairies are cheap and charmless; the mime without intelligent meaning; and there is absolutely no respect for a score filled with one irresistible surge after another.

There is little point in singling out individual dancers for special mention. Guest artist Maria Teresa del Real was always a creditable artist with an impressive CV. But even she came away from this performance looking bad. Some of her colleagues, meanwhile, looked as if they had not quite finished their training.

DEBRA CRAINE

Magical night at the round table

MUSIC

King Arthur
Barbican

MANY in the audience for the final performance of the Barbican's Les Arts Florissants mini-festival must have been anxious that the group's semi-staging of *King Arthur* would not rekindle the magic of its production at Covent Garden two years ago. Well, it was different, but no less exhilarating. There the success owed much to the enchantment of Graham Vick's staging, but here the music carried the evening, with help from a witty new narration by Jeremy Sams.

Purcell's "dramatick opera" (1691) is really a play with music. But whereas the score reveals Purcell's genius better than almost anything else, Dryden's play is not exactly a masterpiece. Replacing it with narrative is thus the most practical way of presenting the work today, especially when the new text feels as stylistically right as Sams's. He supplies sly modern asides but sends up the plot in the gentlest of ways.

Rebecca Saire and Philip Franks, fine actors, delivered the narration engagingly. Ana Yepes's staging flowed well, with the eight singers moving in formation and the occasionally stylised slow motion. No scenery was necessary, and there were no costumes apart from the black and pearl-coloured capes which the singers donned for some choruses. But it was a pity that Yepes, who supplied the mincing choreography for herself and another dancer, also allowed some text to be spoken over the music.

William Christie led his singers and instrumentalists incisively, and with sensitive flexibility: there is surely no other ensemble so brilliant at bringing Purcell to life. The singers made a well-matched team, but Sophie Daneman, Mhairi Lawson, Gaëlle Méchaly, Paul Agnew and Nathan Berg stood out, Daneman especially for her radiant singing of *Fairest Isle*. (Would it make a better national anthem?)

The final patriotic but unjingoistic masque really is the high point of the piece. And the chorus of farming lads deservedly brought the house down.

JOHN ALLISON

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Classic move from rags to riches

THEATRE

Electra
Minerva, Chichester

At first I did not register Electra at all. My eyes vaguely took in a clump of rags in a tiny alcove or cubby-hole near the top of the big grey wall at the back of the stage. But I was too preoccupied with the rest of Johan Engels's set — a slice of cracked Grecian marble dumped askew among broken Regency-period chairs, like a long-abandoned table at some bombed-out banquet — to inspect the bundle further.

Then it came to life. It clambered down and turned out to be a bent human being wearing an old robe, with rents and tears in its oatmeal-coloured wool, and a curiously childlike white mask. Then off came the mask, to reveal a ginger scrub of cropped hair, a flayed-looking face, and the overall aspect of a scavenging vagrant, or maybe a concentration camp survivor, or conceivably a refugee from a nuclear explosion. At that point I most emphatically registered Zoe Wanamaker's Electra, and did not stop registering her for the next 100 minutes.

With this hauntingly contemporary yet plausibly mythic figure stumbling and sometimes crawling around the red-brown earth that covers the stage, David Leveaux's programme note about Sarajevo and bereavement seems redundant. In any case, his production also offers us a three-woman chorus whose peasant scarves and widows' black certainly suggest war-zone Bosnia. Add Frank McGuinness's punchy and sometimes colloquial translation — "go easy", "good for you", "so what?", "bosom pals" — and there is no danger of dismissing Sophocles's play as a dead classic.

Leveaux's production is balanced as well as dramatically strong. Margaret Yates actually wins a little sympathy for Electra's mother without in the least sentimentalising her. Her Clytemnestra is imperious, implacable, and fully capable of having murdered her husband Agamemnon. But her outrage when she remembers his sacrifice of their daughter Iphigenia is no pretence. Indeed, she leaves you feeling that bitterness and pain have had the same effect on her as they have on Electra herself. For all their mutual loathing, they are linked in loss.

If Andrew Howard seems a mite underpowered as Orestes, Rudolph Walker exudes magnificent authority as his tutor, and Wanamaker never lets you forget the damage that suffering has wreaked on her heart, mind and body. She does not try to rival Fiona Shaw when it comes to hitting Electra's high Cs. Rather, she suggests that year upon year of misery have corroded that part of her emotional register. Grief and anger have become dogged, desperate habits, and, though she may spit in sudden scorn at the sister who counsels caution, she is always more apt to rasp or snarl than wail or screech.

That isn't to say that Wanamaker fails to rise to her emotional climaxes, or that her performance lacks variety. The scene in which she cradles the urn she believes contains Orestes's ashes is most moving, as is the reconciliation with Orestes proper. And barely has she emitted a growl of alarming intensity as Clytemnestra is killed, "strike her again!", than she is on the ground, rolling and weeping in what comes across as a weird, rather horrible mix of relief and sorrow at the death of the woman who was her greatest foe: her mother.

Altogether, a revival well worth catching when it moves to the Donmar in the middle of next month.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

KARA MILLER

Age: 23.

Profession: From nine to five she is an account planner with a London advertising agency, but outside office hours she has set up A-Bit-Of-Rough Theatre Company to stage her own plays.

Success to date: Her one-acter, *Undine*, about a Caribbean mail-order bride who comes to Britain to marry an abusive husband, was one of the surprise hits of the Edinburgh Fringe, getting four stars in *The Scotsman*, while *The Stage* declared her to be a "discovery" of the festival. After the original actress dropped out a week before opening, Miller also ended up playing the lead role.

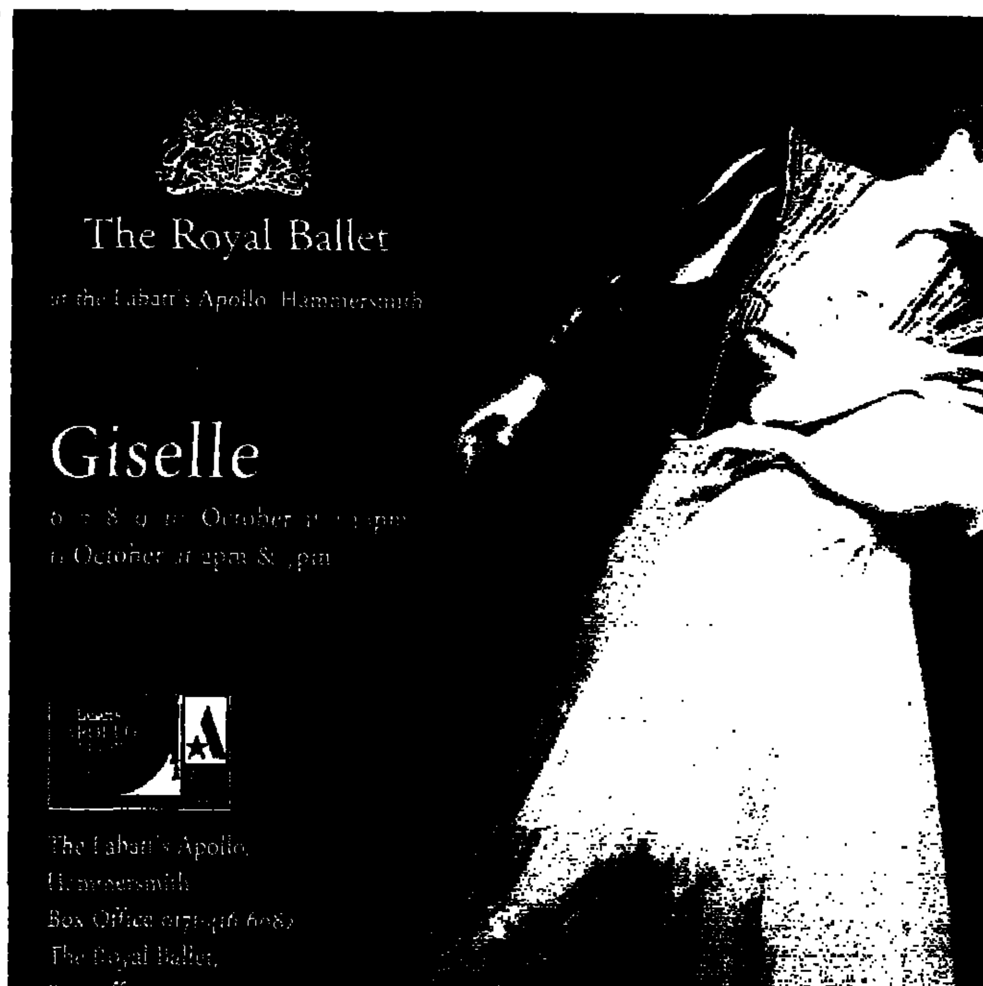
Pretty versatile, huh? And a great advertisement for multicultural Britain. Her family came from Jamaica but she was schooled in Britain and has a law degree from Oxford. "I wrote in my spare time."

What did the critics say? "Unflinching honesty and brutal beauty" and "pure and powerful" were typical assessments.

She must have understanding employers: Very. They not only gave her the time off for a three-week run but sponsored the production to the tune of £5,000.

So she doesn't plan to give up the day job? Not just yet, but she probably won't be running advertising accounts much longer. *Undine* has been bought by the BBC as a Radio 4 *Monday Play* for broadcast in the new year, and her latest work, *Project Fantasy*, has been entered for the Royal Court's Alfred Fagon Award.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON



The Royal Ballet
at the Labatt's Apollo Hammersmith
Giselle
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The Labatt's Apollo,
Hammersmith
Box Office [illegible]
The Royal Ballet,
Box Office [illegible]
Ticketmaster [illegible]

Painters sizzling in oil

John Russell Taylor on an illuminating new TV series

Wanted: one quince, one cabbage, one melon (cut), one cucumber. It sounds like a curious recipe, but these were the ingredients the devisers of *Oil on Canvas*, a Monday night visual art series on BBC2, needed for the programme about light and shade, *Out of the Shadows*.

The early 17th-century Spanish painter Juan Sanchez Coton painted, around 1600, a famous still-life featuring just these fruits and vegetables, the quince and the cabbage suspended on string, the melon and the cucumber nicely placed on a ledge below. To show how the effect of the composition, so apparently simple, depended on the exact way the light was permitted to fall on these elements, the things painted were reconstituted in real life so that the light could be changed and readjusted at will.

But the series is more than just another historical survey. In each programme the ideas on how oil paint arrives on canvas are conveyed primarily through watching a contemporary painter at work. In the programme about pictorial lighting the contemporary is John Greenwood, who paints a traditional type of still-life, except that the objects in his paintings are imaginary, and so the light which bathes them also has to be imagined.

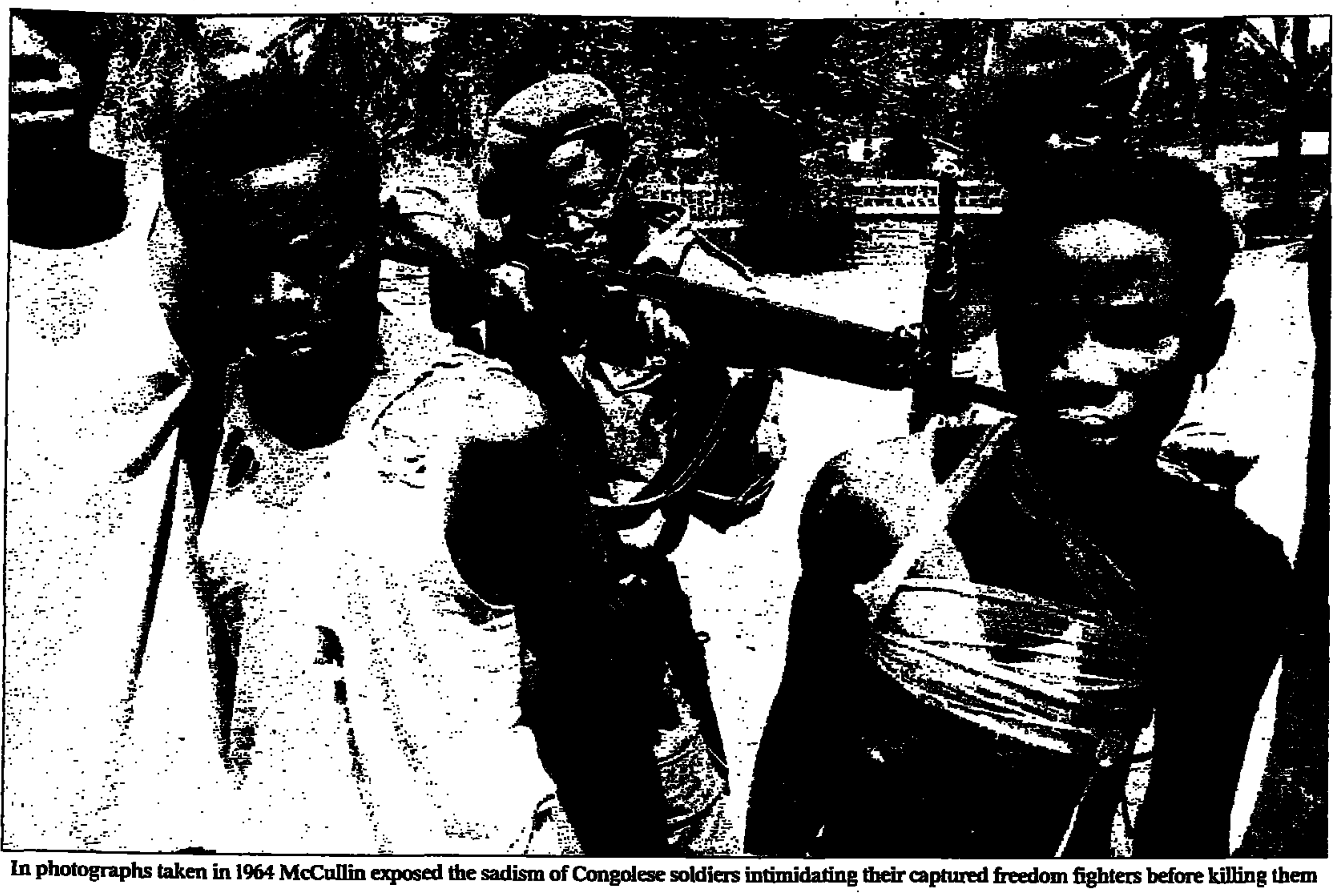
All the painters concerned will also be on show from October at the Boundary Gallery, although not always with work closely comparable to what we see them doing in the series. For example, on screen we follow John Virtue, who paints these days huge abstracted landscapes in black and white, as he lays out his sheet of canvas in a field in Devon, splashes and treads shellac all over it in psychological response to the scene before him, then adds side panels to make it even larger, and finally decides to burn all except a small part which continues to please him. The sheer size is something that few private galleries could encompass, but fortunately he works smaller too.

What is fascinating about all the artists who appear in the series — who include Ben Johnson, June Redfern, Len Tabner, Ray Richardson and Tai-Shan Schierenberg — is how articulate they are about what they are doing. The series puts together a lot of special cases to make some general points. But then, as the exhibition demonstrates, any artist worth the name is a special case anyway.

● Oil on Canvas *is on BBC2 every Monday until Oct 13. The show is at the Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (0171-624 1126), Oct 11-Nov 15*

Don McCullin has taken plenty of intrusive pictures. But, says **Richard Cork**, his can be justified

Unflinching view of the world at war



In photographs taken in 1964 McCullin exposed the sadism of Congolese soldiers intimidating their captured freedom fighters before killing them

Ever since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the whole notion of the photographer as witness has seemed irredeemably defiled. So Don McCullin's superlative exhibition at the Barbican Art Gallery comes as an urgently needed corrective. His journey through late 20th-century hell is an emotion-wrenching and, sometimes, almost unbearable experience. But I never felt, even at the most gruesome stages of his retrospective, that McCullin was abusing or exploiting the people whose tragedies he recorded.

Although the show starts in the peacetime of late 1950s London, the shadow of war is detectable from the outset. The young McCullin's gangland friends, posed like apprentice hitmen in Finsbury Park, scowl from the gutted innards of a bombed-out house. The aftermath of the Blitz years still blights the pummelled metropolis. And McCullin, whose professional career began when *The Observer* published this melancholy yet truculent photograph, soon found himself pitched into battlefields far removed from his North London home.

His early British pictures are artfully composed. But a new, harsh directness invades McCullin's work after he was sent to cover the civil war in Cyprus. Here, quite suddenly, he was confronted by the reality of callous internecine violence. At first, nothing seems to be happening in his picture of a narrow, curving street almost blocked by the impersonal bulk of a tank. But then we notice the huddle of men, sheltering near a doorway as one of them tries to pull a body off the road.

Already, in this tense and ominous image, McCullin's instinctive feeling for the victims of conflict is movingly apparent. Two harrowing photographs of a Turkish woman discovering her murdered husband drive home the shock and misery of bereavement. Lying across the foreground, with eyes open and a strangely serene expression, the man is discovered by his yelling, disconsolate wife. Several stunned figures stand in the fierce heat of a sunlit doorway, like the chorus in a Greek tragedy.

Not that he extends his sympathy to everyone embroiled in the killing fields. On a Congolese trip in the mid-1960s, he found government troops humiliating some pitifully young Lumumbist freedom fighters. Whether forcing them to grovel on the ground, or hitting their necks with rifle-butts, the tormentors show no emotion. As for the captives, their resigned faces are scored by a painful awareness that the humiliation will end only when they are shot.

Was McCullin justified in taking these "intrusive" pictures? We can never know how the freedom fighters themselves felt, realising that their final anguish was being observed through the camera's lens. But if McCullin helped to expose the Congolese soldiers' sadism by publishing his photographs, then he was surely justified.

Nowhere in this crowded, relentless and often overwhelming exhibition is there any attempt to glorify war. McCullin approaches each demanding and dangerous assignment as a fresh opportunity to arraign the degradation of humanity. Covering the Vietnam hostilities for *The Sunday Times*, he concentrated time and again on the suffering involved. One arresting image, of an Olympian American Marine twisting his athletic body as he hurls a grenade, possesses an heroic dynamism. But McCullin immediately counters its energy with another picture, taken moments later, of the same sinewy soldier slumped and bleeding after a sniper's bullet felled him.

Most of McCullin's finest Vietnam pictures were taken during the battle for the city of Hue. Imagining that they could recapture it from the North Vietnamese regiment after a 24-hour assault, the Americans found themselves ensnared for days in street-by-street combat. It decimated their forces, and some photographs convey the mortal cost of the fighting without even showing injured faces or limbs. In one elegiac picture, only the boots of the man on a stretcher are visible. But they are enough, combined with the hunched, intent figures of his fellow Marines who struggle to carry him painstakingly through the rubble.

McCullin himself never became inured to the anguish around him. On the contrary: his feeling for the plight of civilians caught up in the conflicts intensified. After travelling to Biafra in 1967, he forsook battlefields and devoted himself to the appalling predicament of women and children in the refugee camps. Bullets had not wounded many of them, but famine proved more deadly still. The pictures McCullin took there are overwhelming in their capacity to assail the viewer's conscience. A child makes a futile attempt to suck milk from a 24-year-old mother. But her crinkled breasts are empty, and the face above them looks prematurely wizened.

In one squalid camp, where McCullin found 900 children on the edge of death, the suffering defies understanding. An albino boy, propped against a wall and leaning on one of his matchstick legs, clutches a tin labelled "France". But his stricken body, so skeletal that it seems ready to snap, is beyond the aid of any imported food. Like so many of the figures in these nightmarish scenes, he appears unable to do anything except contemplate the inevitability of his own imminent extinction.

How does McCullin maintain his mental composure in the face of such continual, relentless savagery? For a while, at least, he must have been sustained by the realisation that his photographs were extensively reproduced and awakening many to the obscene reality of armed struggle and civilian starvation. Ultimately, though, even his fortitude recoiled from all the relentless wretchedness. War-sickened, he turned instead to the consoling spectacle of India. His subdued yet lyrical studies of elephants relishing their early-morning bathe, and pilgrims assembling for prayer in the mistiness of Sonepur Mela, disclose a new hunger for gentle, meditative themes.

At home in Somerset, he withdrew into the fastness of a garden shed and assembled curiously Victorian still lives. The sumptuous results look more like the work of Roger Fenton in the 1850s than late 20th-century photographs. To my eyes, they exclude far too much of the essential McCullin. As darkly printed as ever, these reclusive images have a convalescent air.

But there are signs, in his most recent Indian series of lepers begging on Sugar Island, that his hunger for social involvement is reviving. Anyone who shares my admiration for the courage, compassion and fierce, Goya-like indignation of McCullin's previous work will hope that he recovers his former strength without delay.

● *Don McCullin at the Barbican Art Gallery (0171-638 4141) until Dec 14*

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

KING LEAR: Alan Howard in the lead, with Victoria Hamilton as Cordelia and Greg Hicks as Edmund in Peter Hall's new production
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: The Swedish conductor Joseph Swensen takes the podium to lead the LPO joined by its choir and Youth Orchestra and the London Voices in a concert due to have been conducted by the late Sir Georg Solti. The programme remains unchanged and includes works by Mussorgsky, Shostakovich and Beethoven. Soloists are Marjana Lipovsek and René Pape.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

ROMEO AND JULIET: Company principals Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan Cope open the Royal Ballet season dancing the adolescent lovers in Kenneth MacMillan's evergreen. This is the launch of a three-week visit here which will also include performances of *Giselle* and *The Sleeping Beauty* and will showcase all the company's principal dancers. Festival Hall is next stop.
Labatt's Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6082). Tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

SWANSONG: Jonathan Harvey's comedy monologue, first seen at Edinburgh. Rebecca Front plays an eccentric schoolteacher battling with pupils, politics, and the quirks of modern education.
Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Until October 4 ♿

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: Michael Williams plays John Aubrey, the marvellous 17th Century gossip, in a revival of Patrick Garland's version of **Brief Lives**.
Old Vic, King Street (0117 987 7877) Previews tonight, 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm; Thur-Sat, 8pm; mats Thur and Sat, 2.30pm. Until October 4.

CARDIFF: Welsh National Opera's new production of Mozart's **Clemenza di Tito** is the company's second work of the season. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts an international cast headed by the Australian tenor Glenn Winslade.
New Theatre, Park Place (01222 878889) Tonight and Oct 3, 7.15pm ♿

LEEDS: David Threlfall plays the wanderer in Richard Hope's **Odysseus Thump**. Dropped from his pub football team, our hero visits old haunts in search of reassurance
West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Quarry, Hill Mount (0113-244 2111). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; some mats.

MANCHESTER: Owain Arwel Hughes conducts the **Hallé Orchestra** in an evening of music from two of America's best-loved composers, Copland and Gershwin.
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley St (0161-907 9000) Tonight, 8pm ♿

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
▨ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

▨ **ART**: Henry Goodman, Roger Allam and Stanley Townsend in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until October 4.

☐ **THE BIBLE: THE COMPLETE WORD OF GOD (ABRIDGED)**: Another compression job by the Reduced Shakespeare Company, said to put the fun back into fundamentalism.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm

☐ ***BLUE HEART***: Caryl Churchill plays tricks with reality in this double bill for Out Of Joint — in *Heart's Desire*, where a family is waiting for a woman to return from Australia, and in *Blue Kettle* as a con man tries to persuade elderly women he is their long lost son. Imaginative, often funny, and spreading a sense of unease.
Royal Court, (Duke of York's Theatre), St Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm ♿

☐ **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS**: Tim Supple's successful touring production for the Royal Shakespeare Company. A darker comedy than usual.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until October 11.

▨ **GUYS AND DOLLS**: The Olivier returns to its original shape for the revival of Richard Eyre's revival. Exhilarating stuff.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm; mats tonight and Sat, 2pm.

☐ **HEARTBREAK HOUSE**. Strong cast for David Hare's revival includes Emma Fielding, Patricia Hodge, Carmel McSharry, Penelope Wilton, Richard Griffiths, Peter McEnery
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm. Until October 11

☐ **THE HERBAL BED**: Peter Whelan's fascinating play. Kate Duchêne plays Shakespeare's daughter and Michael Ford plays her physician husband
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **LIFE SUPPORT:** Alan Bates subtly moving in Simon Gray's play about remorse for marital treachery.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

☐ **SKYLIGHT:** Bill Nighy and Stella Gonet in David Hare's witty and cogent play showing two contemporary social moralities at odds
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **CAREER GIRLS** (15): Student friends meet up as adults. Awkward but touching Mike Leigh drama.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520)

DEEP CRIMSON (18): Crisp and morbid Mexican drama about lonelyhearts murderers
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

GALLIVANT (15): Film-maker Andrew Kotting journeys round Britain with his grandmother and daughter
ICA ♿ (0171-930 3647) **Everyman** ♿ (0171-435 1525)

◆ **MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING** (12): Julia Roberts does her best to trip up Dermot Mulroney at the altar. Intelligent comedy from P. J. Hogan.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **PHOTOGRAPHING FAIRIES** (15): Grieving photographer (Toby Stephens) believes in fairies. Unappetising British drama, directed by Nick Willing
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Empire** ♿ (0990 888990) ♿ **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990)

◆ **SPAWN** (12): Incoherent comic book nonsense, with Michael Jai White fighting the forces of Satan.
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990)

CURRENT

◆ **CONSPIRACY THEORY** (15): Over-inflated, mood-swinging thriller with Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts.
UCI Whiteleys ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE FULL MONTY** (15): Unemployed steelworkers strip for cash. Bouncy British comedy, with Robert Carlyle, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy.
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

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Alan Coren

■ Sitting comfortably? Then I'll furnish you with my tale of buried treasure

Of all the myriad potential breakthroughs towards which, down the long years of selfless columnar duty, I have attempted to direct those in a position actually to do the breaking, none has come garnished with greater expectations than today's. I really do believe that someone of irresistible influence will, at last, listen; and, having listened, act. For the first time in my life, I shall have broken through.

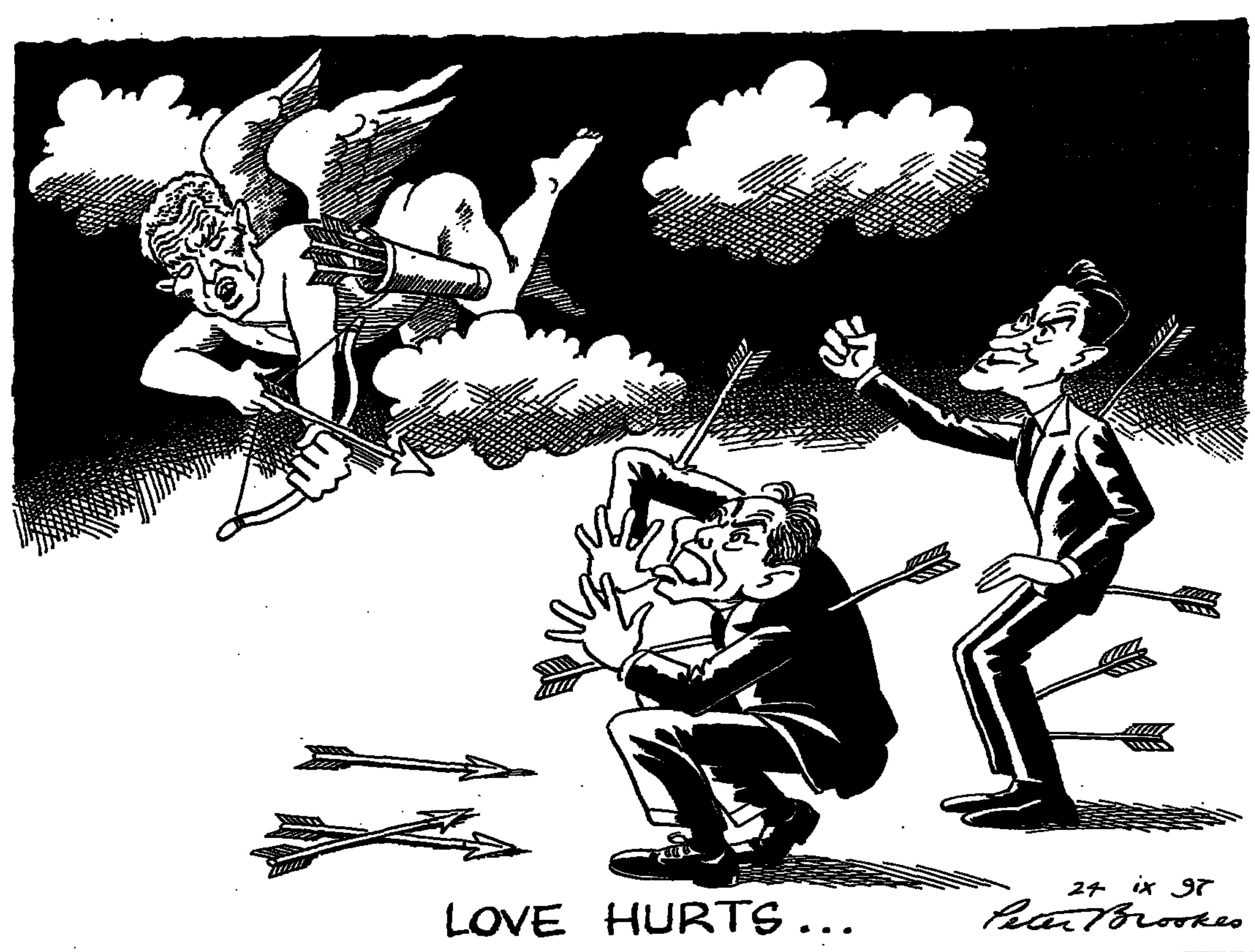
Thanks to the Royal Mint. The Royal Mint is at the bottom of all this. It doesn't know it is at the bottom of it, mind, the only bottom the Royal Mint is interested in is the one on my sofa; or, rather — since I sense confusion lurking here — the one underneath my sofa, ie, my sofa's own bottom. The Mint wants to get to the bottom of my sofa, because it wants to get to the bottom of a mystery involving what might be lying on the bottom of my sofa: but because the Mint cannot be everywhere at once, it has asked me to get to the bottom of my sofa on its behalf. It wants me to grope inside it for any pennies lying on its bottom. For the Mint has initiated the Every Penny Counts campaign in a bid to recover 2,400 million pennies which have disappeared from circulation, and it estimates that some 20 million have infiltrated the nation's seating.

Now, since I like to help the Royal Mint whenever I can — it has been good to me, parking meters, fag machines, public lavatories, the list is formidable — I have just finished doing what it asked, and emptied the three sofas which have been here, unquarried, since before the dawn of decimalisation; and the result is so astonishing as to have signalled the imminence of a major breakthrough. For not only have I collected over nine quid — excluding the antique value of half-crowns and giant pennies, plus God knows how much in francs, drachmae, pesetas, and several indecipherable coins with holes in — I also have eight keys, six lighters, 31 assorted sweets, including three extinct and possibly highly collectible ones, in their original, if slightly foxed, wrappers, 22 pills, for the loss of which my guests may well have suffered anything, perhaps even on their way home, from ringworm to cardiac arrest, three penknives, two dice, four teaspoons, a human molar on a chain, and several items of so intimate a nature that I shall treat them with a discretion which almost certainly lies outside their normal experience.

Now, how many sofas do you suppose inhabit these islands? There you are, then. Over the years, people have come and gone to and from this sofa and that, leaving stuff behind at every squat, until the population is now sitting on what is nothing less (though daily more) than a vast national trouser exchange. None of us has the remotest idea of what we may have lost or where we may have lost it, we know only that we no longer have things we once had; even worse, many of us, knowing only that much, will have gone back to a hotel in Rhyl to look under a bed, when we should in fact have been gutting a sofa in Nuneaton. More chaotic yet, if the Every Penny Counts campaign takes off, things will be excavated from the sofa in Nuneaton which will as a result become the property of someone else, who in due course will lose them down a sofa in Droitwich. Unless, that is, there is a major breakthrough.

Have you got there yet? Of course you have: there is only one major breakthrough which could sort all this out so that neither the Mint would ever again have to beg us to disembowel our furniture in the national interest, nor would we go mad wondering what became of our bits and bobs, and that breakthrough can be made only by the deft hands of the tailoring profession. Acting on my, quite literally, lateral thinking: because the sole reason why stuff slips out of pockets and makes for the bottoms of sofas is that those pockets are on the sides of trousers. If they were on the fronts of trousers, stuff would not slip out at all.

Yes, it will involve radical cultural change, affecting the way men dress, stand, walk, scratch, all that, and it will not come cheap. It may, of course, be possible to cut costs by converting existing trousers. I cannot say, but I shall make inquiries. If I can get mine done for under nine quid, I shall consider this to have been a good day's work all round.



The dustbin of politics

As long as Liberal Democrats care only about survival, they will remain irrelevant

Simon Jenkins

Autumn's political wind is always preceded by a light September breeze. It shakes no trees, yet defoliates the British Liberal Democrat Party. Paddy Ashdown stands shorn of his figleaf by the seaside, a sheepish smile on his face. We nod politely. We put money in his hat and hope he is well cared for in the coming year.

The Liberal Democrats are irrelevant. They have been irrelevant since the apotheosis of Tony Blair, since the modernisation of Labour, since the rise of the welfare state. The Liberals have been irrelevant for so long that they are numb to their irrelevance. They have not won national power since Lloyd George, since the rise oof Labour, since the dawn of universal suffrage. They remain a vagrant spectre of a 19th-century political club. Liberals are a party without ideological or geographical roots, propped up by the media and a vague British love of fair play. We take cream with our scones, *Jerusalem* with our Proms and Liberals with our politics. They are nanny's comfy toy. In September they get a hug.

Mr Ashdown has this week done another of his "fearless" SAS routines. He gets frightfully worked up about what government is doing and says he will "not stand for it". This week he was not standing Labour sacrificing the poor, the sick and the stupid to Gordon Brown's Treasury. He, Paddy Ashdown, never signed up to this year's Tory/Labour spending limits. The world was to see the stuff of which Ashdowns are made. He will make them tax and spend, or else ...

A slight problem is that Mr Ashdown has just held congenial meetings with Labour ministers on constitutional reform, and even mentioned coalition as a "possibility". He says he is pressing Mr Blair privately for an early referendum on electoral reform, Liberalism's Land of Oz. His staff declare that Mr Ashdown's tactical genius along this Yellow Brick Road will soon be public — perhaps when he can find a Cowardly Lion and a Tin Woodman.

As for the accusation much heard at Eastbourne that he is "too cosy with Labour", Mr Ashdown is furious. His guru, Lord Holme of Cheltenham, has pointed out that party members cannot have it both ways. They cannot pursue proportional representation, with its built-in bias towards coalition, but run scared as soon as they see coalition in practice. Besides, most Liberals work within coalitions in local government.

Yet no sooner has Mr Ashdown shown his muscles to his friends than the dark shape of Mr Blair's Peter Mandelson lowers over him, writing on this page yesterday. How dare Mr Ashdown criticise government spending targets, bellows Mr Mandelson. Does he not know they are sacred? They were drawn up by the vastly experienced Tory Government, whose boots Mr Mandelson seems to think little Ashdown is barely fit to lick. The targets were sanctified by Mr Blair during the campaign and rewarded with "the trust of the electorate". It beggars belief, Mr Mandelson implies, that a Liberal Democrat rabble could question targets prepared by that paragon of firm but fair government, that citadel of intellectual genius, the British Treasury.

Nor was this all. Mr Ashdown had better go carefully, said Mr Mandelson. He had been admitted to, indeed photographed in, Downing Street at a "Special Cabinet Committee". Such invitations do not come cheap, least of all to mere Liberals. What did Mr Blair get in return? He got Mr Ashdown's "invalid criticism ... slipping into oppositionitis ... promising painless profligacy". With the phraseology of a man weighed down by a lifetime in office, Mr Mandelson deplored such upstart presumption. Mr Ashdown was playing "a dangerous game". He had better look to his kneecaps.

Poor Mr Ashdown. He meant well, but politics is so difficult. You have your best election since the war. You have 46 MPs, enough to fill a bus rather than a telephone booth. Your office is alive with fresh faces. Yet the pollsters keep telling you nothing has changed. Millions of fair-weather Tories merely used you as a dustbin last May, as many anti-Thatcherites did in the Eighties. Mr Mandelson rubbed salt in this wound. He jeered that it was only Labour's prudence on public spending that induced many Tories to desert their party, giving a tactical vote to the Liberal Democrats rather than Labour. In other words, half of Mr Ashdown's MPs owe their seats not to his charms but to the "Mandelson coupon", an approved anti-Tory tactical vote. This is a harsh claim, though not implausible.

British Liberals have long lived on fantasy. Back in the early 1980s the then leader David Steel urged his supporters to "go out and prepare for government". In those days Liberals courted disaffected Labour voters, as it had courted Tory ones after that party's Orpington nightmare in 1962. The Liberals, it seemed, would court anyone for a handful of votes. We now have the same spectacle, except that the party is spinning all ways at the same time. Charles Kennedy suggests replacing the Tories as the natural opposition to Labour. Activists in Monday's debate wanted to outdo Ken Livingstone as champions of those dispossessed by new Labour. The leadership itself will do anything, even forgo a marriage of convenience with Mr Blair, to achieve proportional representation.

This is meaningless politics. There is no search for a creed beyond the vacuities of an Ashdown speech, no grasping at a territorial or functional constituency. There is only the grim quest for survival at Westminster. The dustbin is open to any old rubbish, votes wet, dry, clear glass, brown or green.

Mr Mandelson's article shows how swiftly the Labour Party has slid into the budgetary straitjacket inherited from the Tories. After the May election any student of public finance could have identified hundreds of millions of pounds in the British Budget available for "socialist" redistribution: in the Ministry of Defence (Eurofighter and Trident), in housing benefit, in NHS drugs, in the "training and enterprise" rackets. More hundreds of millions had been squandered in the Tories' last years, subsidising council taxes and business rates and bribing voters, in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Such money reallocated could honour the Left's wildest dreams.

Mr Blair did not "inherit" these priorities. He decided not to change them. He would have a quieter start in Downing Street if he treated the Tory Budget as an extraneous discipline, not a self-imposed one. This offered Mr Ashdown a sudden stretch of "red water" between himself and Labour. Before the election he moved into it fast, saying that the Liberal Democrats would demand higher taxes to pay for education. Yet this week he has withdrawn. In a mealy-mouthed phrase, his spokesman Malcolm Bruce says he is "not in favour of higher taxes for the sake of it". No, we thought, just for education. But apparently Mr Ashdown has no stomach for such radicalism.

Labour's neo-Tory asceticism offers the Liberal Democrats an opportunity for radicalism as never before. Unless Labour itself splits, which I doubt, who will champion those dispossessed by Mr Brown's future Budgets? With tape clamped over Labour mouths, who will speak for those whose benefits are squeezed, whose rents are forced up, whose jobs are vulnerable to "labour market flexibility", who have no unions to defend their living standards? Who will speak for the public sector unions themselves, cursed at every turn by Labour ministers? These groups are poor and carry no clout.

Nor is this the only constituency going begging. Despite the Government's admirable reforms in Scotland and London, there is little sign of Mr Blair freeing local government from the armlock of centralism or from the quango state. The greatest disappointment of Mr Ashdown's leadership has been his inability to look beyond the glamour of Westminster and articulate a rigorous libertarianism. Liberals have never been convincing opponents of big government, whether for personal liberty or against centralism. Mr Ashdown has funked reform of the drugs laws. Last year he could not even bring himself to support an elected mayor for London.

This 1997 Parliament should be Liberalism's golden opportunity. British politics usually offers too many champions for the available causes. Suddenly there are available causes in search of champions. Yet Liberal Democrats champion nothing except their own survival. So we patronise them, pat them on the head and wish Paddy Ashdown another nice day.

Is Britain in a class of its own?

The secret of our success is inequality, says **Michael Gove**

Of all John Major's forlorn ambitions, from his hope in the summer of 1992 that sterling would shortly replace the mark as the ERM's benchmark currency, to his desire to leave office when everyone least expected it, no failure was as great, and no failure as deserved, as the frustration of his wish for a "genuinely classless society".

Mr Major, it must be said, did succeed magnificently in using the power of the State to effect a direct redistribution of wealth. It was a transfer of money, however, from the have-nots to the haves. The most significant of his legislative achievements was the National Lottery, and as Stephen Pollard and Andrew Adonis point out in their fascinating and comprehensive new book *A Class Act*, the lottery is an exquisite device for exploiting the limitations of the poor and subsidising the amusements of the rich. Short of drug-pushing, there is no process where the failings of the disadvantaged are used so transparently to subsidise the wealthy.

It might be counted as offensive to social justice that a Prime Minister who came to power as an egalitarian should have ended by extending class divisions. It is, however, divine justice that Mr Major should have failed so spectacularly. A Conservative Prime Minister has no business trying to create a classless society. It is as offensive to Tory principles as claiming you have no "selfish strategic interest" in keeping your country One Nation. For a Conservative to believe in classlessness is like a panther living on vegetation — so contrary to nature that it will lead to extinction.

The persistence of class as a social fact, intellectual battleground and way of selling books is underlined this week with the simultaneous publication of Adonis and Pollard's work, by Hamish Hamilton, and Lord Bauer's *Class on the Brain*, by the Centre for Policy Studies. What makes the two studies particularly worth the reader's attention is their quality in a crowded field.

That two works should appear on class in one week is unremarkable. Publishing relies on the class system to survive, and not just because it employs well-born gels at a discount. From Anthony Sampson's *Anatomy of Britain* to Peter York's *The Sloane Ranger Handbook*, bestsellers have thrived on class. Take but degree away, untune that string and hark what discord would follow in the book market.

The huge public appetite for reading about how the other half lives only emphasises how ineradicable class distinctions are. For Adonis and Pollard, angered by "intensifying class divisions", the likely success of their volume will be bitter-sweet. It will sell because Britain wants to be reminded of its divisions and delights in all the nuanced inequalities of modern life. And far from being a masochistic impulse, another *vice Anglaise*, appreciating class distinctions is the mark of a free society and the guarantee of a better one.

Inequality is the inevitable outcome of an open-market economy and, more than that, an engine of economic growth more effective than any Keynesian demand management. As Lord Bauer points out in his brilliant polemic: "Differences and distinctions do not restrict talent or inhibit economic progress. In fact, they rather promote ambition and achievement because they offer inducement, something to go for, at all levels of society."

It takes an outsider like Lord Bauer, the son of a Hungarian bookie, to recognise what generations of progressives like Will Hutton, Adonis and Pollard fail to do — the class system made Britain great. The public schools, far from holding the nation back, have been a priceless asset. It is the desire to send his son to Eton, for *prestige* as much as qualifications, that drives the man in the Midlands to build a better mousetrap.

In their work, Adonis and Pollard succeed magnificently on every page in showing that Britain is an unequal society but never once prove why it should be anything else. Indeed, they are honest enough to record the evidence which suggests that progressive efforts by the State to intervene in social organisation are as counter-productive as they are in economic production.

In their chapter on education, the authors record how egalitarian experiments such as comprehensive schooling and progressive teaching, which dismantled old hierarchies, replaced them with new and harsher inequalities. They quote approvingly the words of the ethical socialist A.H. Halsey: "The essential fact of 20th-century educational history is that egalitarian policies have failed."

They have certainly failed in Halsey's terms but there is, of course, nothing wrong *per se* in ever-greater inequality. The real test of equity, in law and in society, is the process not the outcome. A fair society is one where barriers to progress, not divisions between individuals, are as small as possible. To object to growing disparities in income is, ultimately, immoral, a genuflection to envy. Envy is a prejudice, as ugly as any, which seeks to punish another when no injury has been sustained. Snobbery, which drives man to excel and encourages the cultivation of taste, is, by contrast, a deeply moral impulse. It is a pity, for his sake, that the boy from Brixton did not recognise that earlier. If he had mounted a more spirited Tory defence of class as the goad to achievement, he might have stood a fighting chance against the Old Fettesian.

THE TIMES DIARY

Lordly rebel

AS Gordon Brown demanded that his colleagues accept his "hair shirt" pay rise yesterday, one Cabinet minister was preparing to defy the Chancellor.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, already the highest-earning Cabinet minister, is keen to keep his full pay rise. As Lord Chancellor, he receives £140,665 a year — nearly £40,000 a year more than Tony Blair.

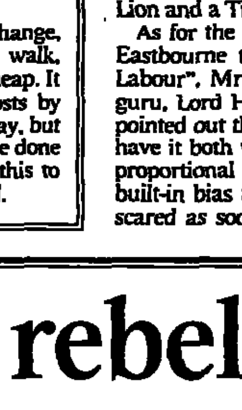
But then Lord Irvine is in a uniquely strong position within the Cabinet. As head of chambers, he introduced the young Tony to Cherie, his future wife. Blair is unlikely to sack his mentor.

Like the rest of the Cabinet, Lord Irvine's pay is recommended by the Senior Salaries Review Body. But while his colleagues prepare to forgo their rises, the Lord Chancellor is arguing that his remuneration should be dealt with differently.

"Some 14 per cent of his salary is paid by the House of Lords — he is the Speaker — and 86 per cent comes from a consolidated fund," waffles an Irvine flunky before conceding, "but, part of the salary does reflect his Cabinet position."

Irvine is an enigmatic character. Famed for slamming "fat cat" lawyers, he is not one to slum it. Shortly after the election, "Derry", known by friends as a *bon viveur*, chose to renovate his official Westminster residence — at a cost to the taxpayer of up to £2million. And at work, as regular readers will know, he orders a civil servant to peel him oranges. Nice work ...

● *KEN CLARKE's shrewd move to pour scorn on the single currency is paying off. William Hague's "back me or sack me" ultimatum has prompted IG Index to drop the odds on Clarke becoming Tory leader from 50-1 to 16-1. "Hague's only legacy," predicts their odds-setter, Patrick Jay, "will be as the man who wore a baseball cap to the Notting Hill Carnival."*



"Well, I've looked everywhere, but it's not here"

Bottoming out

ONE of Wee William Hague's most loyal supporters is snubbing his "bonding-session" in Eastbourne next month. Peter Bottomley, MP for Worthing West, has turned down Willie's invitation to spend two days with colleagues in a five-star hotel; instead he will holiday in Spain with his daughter.

"I was a first-night supporter of William," protests the MP. "But I promised my daughter I'd take her to Spain for half-term because she's doing GCSE Spanish. We're going quietly — I don't want this all over the papers." Quite.

● *WHO says the dear old Liberals have changed? The Grand Hotel in Eastbourne (£270 a night, with former guests including the Queen of Spain and Charlie Chaplin) has had to waive its strict dress code for the conference. Liberal MPs have dined in jeans, trainers and even shorts. "While Mr Ashdown wears a suit, some seem happier in denim," harumphs my man with the trouser press. "Luckily, they've taken over the hotel, so there are no other guests to offend."*

Hot wire

WHILE THE British team behind the jet-powered *Thrust SSC* recorded the fastest land-speed journey in history, the grandson of Sir Malcolm Campbell, who established an earlier record in *Bluebird* in 1929, is preparing to break the international land-speed record — er, for electric vehicles.

Donald Wales will unveil his conveyance at Brooklands today, and hopes to reach 230mph in *Bluebird Electric*, smashing the current record of 183.075mph.

Designed by the inventor of the Popemobile, the car has no gears and can reach top speed in 90 seconds. "It's a question of foot hard to the floor, hang on to the steering wheel and point," says Wales, who admits to a calling for this sort of thing. To date, the fastest he has driven a car is 130mph, in a Volvo.

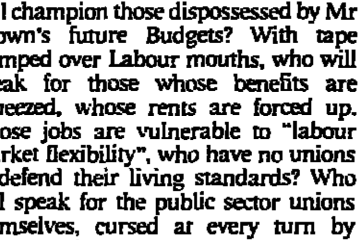
● *HE is not always nasty. Peter Mandelson was quizzed for a forthcoming BBC programme about John Prescott, who famously likened Mandelson to a crab. What animal does Prescott resemble? "A cross between a lion and a beast," Mandelson replied, before concluding a little less glowingly: "He is a big beast."*

He-mail

STEPHEN FRY used the Internet to re-establish a close relationship with his parents. And he e-mailed instalments of his frank childhood memoir — including Wildean appreciations of male beauty and accounts of adolescent thievery — to their Norfolk home, to check they would not raise a blush.

"We were not at all concerned," says his affable father, Alan. "Stephen and I are always using the Internet to chat."

The family was toasting a new book by our medical maestro, Dr Thomas Stuttaford, on the (largely beneficial) effects of drinking. Dr Tom was the Fry family doctor, and has clear memories of the young Stephen. "He was always such a clever little chap, witty even then," he says. "I would write notes to his housemaster saying so when he got into his scrapes."



Showtime: Dylan and John Paul

Stone me

A PAPAL performance has rarely been so eagerly awaited. Bob Dylan, who will sing for the Pontiff in Bologna this Saturday at the World Eucharist Congress, has been asked to present his planned lyrics to the Vatican. It seems that the two performers, both of whom knocked on heaven's door recently, wish to harmonise their act, with the Pope weaving his speech around Dylan's words. Mr Dylan, I trust, will not perform a rendition of his important work *Everybody Must Get Stoned.*

P·H·S

THE UNREFORMED UN

The United Nations needs a tougher approach from Britain

Robin Cook's speech to the United Nations General Assembly yesterday was described by the Foreign Office as "a powerful call for UN reform". This was the Foreign Secretary's bid not only to make his personal mark before a global audience, but to put Britain's considerable influence at the UN behind a more dynamic and imaginative rethinking of priorities and methods than Kofi Annan, the new UN Secretary-General, has so far felt confident enough to put forward. Specifics were called for.

Mr Cook praised Mr Annan's "outstanding leadership"; he would better have complemented it by showing more of his own. A British Foreign Secretary operates under fewer constraints than the UN's chief executive officer. Mr Annan needs forceful allies willing to put the case for radicalism more clearly than he can himself.

The Labour Government has, admittedly, put itself in a difficult position to argue that the UN urgently needs to shed excess baggage if it is to concentrate on areas where demand is high and the need for its involvement indisputable. Its decision to rejoin Unesco and cancel the British decision to withdraw from Unido, the UN Industrial Development Organisation, betrays a preference for the politically correct over the politically effective. The modest administrative reforms currently on offer are not sufficient to give the UN "the flexibility and efficiency it requires" to respond to 21st-century challenges.

A more radical presentation would also have won Mr Cook a more respectful hearing in the US Congress than he has achieved by a televised assault on America's non-payment of the arrears it owes to the UN. The public recall by a senior Foreign Office official of May's bruisingly unproductive confrontation between Mr Cook and Jesse Helms, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was still more unfortunate. However true it may be that Mr Helms detests the UN and all its works, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, has worked tirelessly with the Senate to reach a compromise under which these arrears will at last start to be repaid next year. There is much to be lost by demonising the veteran senator over an issue which has wide bipartisan support; the Senate passed the relevant Bill, which is currently stuck in negotiations with the House, by 90 votes to five.

The problem with the Bill is that it sets conditions, particularly on cutting America's future share of UN dues to 20 per cent, to which Britain and the rest of the UN object. But it is in Britain's interest to try to separate this dispute as much as possible from the business of UN reforms which are needed regardless of its financial predicament. The last Government positioned Britain to act as broker on this issue, by initiating a needed overhaul of a system of calculating UN dues so out of touch with economic reality that it seriously overcharges Russia and Ukraine while letting China and some prosperous Latin American and Asian countries off too lightly. Although the US assessment accurately reflects its share of world GDP, it may not be healthy for a global organisation to depend too heavily on a single country.

The best way to counter the prejudices of an exceptionally uninformed Congress is to convince its members, who have been withholding dues for 12 years in an attempt to force change at the UN, that this time, UN reform will amount to more than shifting the furniture. Britain has a reputation to live up to as a serious and knowledgeable operator in this floundering set of institutions. Unless the UN modernises, Mr Cook rightly said yesterday, it "will lose its legitimacy and its effectiveness". It is on this broader objective that the Foreign Secretary should concentrate his formidable energies.

THE GENE THEME

Man is born free, but everywhere is in genes

Each morning brings news of a new genetic discovery bearing on how long we will live, and how we may die. Aided by the proponents of the almighty gene, the impression is gaining ground that mankind is merely the pretty wrapping around a bunch of genes with minds of their own. Faulty genes have acquired the character of Blind Pugh's Black Spot: not only do they foretell a death, but they do so with a terrible inevitability.

This is, of course, an exaggeration, but it is widely believed. Just as hormones were once seen as the ultimate key to human behaviour, today the gene is king. Fortified by that belief, genetic testing is beginning to advance into the clinic. For diseases caused by changing a single letter in the genetic code, the tests are simple and powerful, and can be of great value to couples intending to have children and wanting to be reassured that they will not suffer from hereditary disease. For more complex conditions such as cancer and heart disease, where many genes may be involved, their usefulness has yet to be unambiguously demonstrated. They are valuable for what they tell clinicians about the causes of the disease, and they may suggest new approaches to the designers of drugs. But their value to the individual is much more equivocal.

The Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing has now produced a code of practice for private companies intending to offer such tests direct to the public. So far, the market is tiny and no abuses have emerged, making this a rare case in which the stable door has been politely closed before the horse has had a chance to bolt. Everything the committee says makes admirable sense, and it has resisted the temptation to call for statutory regulation of gene testing. It is probably right to believe that the market has sufficient checks and balances of its own to ensure that cowboys are quickly shown the door. Not only will patient interest groups and legitimate testing companies wish to preserve high standards and point the finger at miscreants, but the NHS, through its own regional genetic centres, will also be a customer for the tests and a guarantor of quality.

More difficult issues, however, lie ahead. The committee's report may well be effective in heading off abuses, but testing even when properly conducted raises tricky ethical questions. The test result may have implications that go beyond the individual tested, involving the whole family; yet to protect individual confidentiality it may be denied to some of those it could help. In a healthy individual, a bad test result can cause anxieties that cannot be alleviated because no treatment or prophylaxis is available. There may be a danger of creating an army of the unwell, people whose perception of their own health has been altered for ever by a single test. Better blissful ignorance than a half-knowledge that leaves people feeling permanently diminished.

Beyond that again there are social questions that demand answers. How are the results of tests to be handled if revealing them will make it impossible to obtain health or life insurance, while concealing them will tilt the balance unfairly against the insurance companies? Navigating a way through that dilemma is the next task the committee must face, one much harder than the regulation of testing quality which is addressed in today's report. An excellent start, then — but bigger challenges await.

DOVES AND HAWKS

The Middle East peace process can restart with the birds

The dove of peace may come to the Middle East in the form of a hawk. For at a time when political tensions between Israelis and Palestinians are at their worst since the signing of the Oslo peace accords, a small but significant attempt to overcome mistrust and hatred is being made by ornithologists. Palestinian and Israeli birdwatchers have been brought together by the plight of the lesser kestrel, a migratory hawk that nests in the Holy Land but is now so endangered than no more than 400 arrive each year. Three months ago environmentalists on both sides decided that only by working together to protect nest sites and exchange information could they ensure its survival.

The Palestinian-Israeli Environmental Secretariat is a heartening attempt to translate into good neighbourliness the promises of the peacemakers. For not only are the members of this unusual nongovernmental organisation trying to save the kestrel; they are hoping to bring together birdwatchers, young and old, to share their enthusiasm, and in so doing, break down barriers of suspicion and mis-trust. The secretariat, with Palestinian and Israeli co-directors, has already organised one expedition with 20 Israeli and 20 Palestinian children; it plans another next spring. Meanwhile, it is bringing together teachers, journalists and students for the kind of "people-to-people" involvement essential to any understanding that both peoples share the same lands and same environment.

They could hardly have chosen a better focus for their efforts. For too long the delicate plants and colourful creatures of the Middle East have been sacrificed to rapid economic growth, fallen victim to wars and their long-term scars or been destroyed by neglect, indifference and wanton gunfire. Yet the Levant is one of the most important bridges from Africa to Asia for millions and millions of soaring birds that make the long journey each year. They seek rest, water and shelter in the warm valleys; many nest there; and hundreds of species have traditionally established colonies around watering places on the edge of the desert.

Israel has no tradition of hunting; the secretariat estimates that fewer than 5,000 people, most of them Druze, shoot birds. Palestinians have been forced to stop the practice by the restriction of guns enforced under the occupation. Jordan has long had tough restrictions on hunting, and royal patronage for animal protection societies. Further north, however, the picture is bleak. Lebanon has some 500,000 bird hunters, and the annual migration turns into a ruthless slaughter. Small birds are shot for fun or as delicacies to eat, and nominal restrictions were cavalierly flouted during the civil war. The story is the same in Syria and Turkey, or further west in Italy and Malta. The new Palestinian-Israeli secretariat wants to spread a message of protection and shelter beyond the borders of biblical Palestine. In the process it is spreading a far more important message of peace and reconciliation within those borders.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Rank-and-file role in Tory choice

From Sir Julian Critchley

Sir, One man, one vote for the leadership of the Tory party is surely too high a price to pay for Mr William Hague (report, September 23; letters, 20 and 22). The franchise should be extended beyond the now narrow confines, imposed by the 1922 Committee, of 165 Tory MPs.

Ideally, it should include MEPs, ex-Tory MPs in the Lords, the officers of the National Executive Committee, and constituency chairmen. These are, of course, the very people who, in two unofficial ballots last June, voted for Kenneth Clarke.

One man, one vote has a spurious attraction. Was it not Chesterton who said that the difference between aristocracy and democracy is that rule by the ill-educated is to be preferred to rule by the uneducated? A vote for the leader of the party in return for a paltry annual subscription is surely a nonsense. Archie Hamilton, the newly elected chairman of the 1922 Committee, who refused in June to alter the franchise, has much to answer for.

Yours etc,
JULIAN CRITCHLEY
(Conservative MP,
1959-64 and 1970-97),
19 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire.
September 23.

From Councillor Barry Phelps

Sir, Labour constituency parties have always been ruled from the centre. The Conservative associations, while sometimes in the gift of local bigwigs, have never been ruled from outside — and it wouldn't suit us.

Margaret Thatcher all but destroyed the Conservative Party's grass roots in the constituencies when she emasculated local government. It is William Hague's job to revive those roots, not complete their destruction by adopting the centralisation that suits Labour so well. Then the Conservative Party can regroup, rethink and reorganise for its return to power — the only thing at which we are undeniably pre-eminent.

Taking from the constituencies their right to choose their candidates would deny them their last real power.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY PHELPS
(Councillor, Royal Borough of
Kensington & Chelsea),
25 Kenway Road, Earl's Court, SW5.
ad356@dial.pipex.com
September 23.

From Councillor Murray Naylor

Sir, Exasperation is the only word which I can use to describe the latest outburst of sniping and disloyalty currently besetting the Conservative Party.

I write as a constituency chairman and as a county councillor who actually won a seat on May 1, to warn those apparently so myopic that they cannot see the very real danger to the party.

Unless we give reform and restructuring a chance, there could be no party to fight any elections in the foreseeable future. Can those who guide our destinies not see that the grass roots of the party are fed up with discord, dissension and disloyalty? Have they learnt nothing from the last general election?

For goodness sake let's give William Hague and his proposals a fair chance, consider them coolly and rationally and, having done so, make our decisions and unite to rebuild the Conservative Party as the great institution that it once was.

Yours sincerely,
MURRAY NAYLOR
(Chairman),
Ryedale Conservative Association,
109 Town Street,
Old Malton, North Yorkshire.
September 23.

From Mr Beverley Morgan

Sir, Your front-page headline today states "Hague plans bigger say for rank-and-file".

Is it not somewhat ironic that, had Mr Hague's wishes been set in train at the time of the last leadership election, Kenneth Clarke rather than he would now be the Leader of the Opposition.

Yours sincerely,
BEVERLEY MORGAN,
9 Winterstoke Gardens,
Mill Hill, NW7.
September 23.

Court costs

From Mr Charles Evans

Sir, The Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department is right to reconsider a plan to scrap a defendant's automatic right to jury trial (report, September 11). A considerable saving in cost will be achieved if the practice of lay magistrates hearing cases is curtailed instead.

Full-time stipendiary magistrates deal with the court business with greater speed and certainty than their lay colleagues. The saving in time is reflected in reduced legal aid bills and the greater certainty in a reduction in expensive appeals to the higher courts.

As 98 per cent of criminal cases are disposed of in the magistrates' courts, is that not where savings should be sought? The public purse would benefit, but not at the expense of justice.

Yours,
CHARLES EVANS,
Goldsmith Chambers,
Temple, EC4.

Appeal on council 'gerrymandering'

From Mr Peter Bradley, MP for The Wrekin (Labour), and others

Sir, It is a shame that Lord Rees-Mogg ("A system in the dock", September 18) apparently has not troubled to scan the 12,000 pages of documentary evidence against Shirley Porter and others gathered in the course of the auditor's seven-year investigation into the "gerrymandering" of Westminster City Council.

If he had, as we have, his tortuous defence of Dame Shirley would not rely quite so heavily on anecdotal encounters with her over arts funding and canapés.

Moreover, Lord Rees-Mogg's claim that the Westminster surcharge appeal is prejudiced before it comes to court next month is simply nonsense.

The case will be decided not by a jury but by three High Court judges. In what possible way can their judgment be prejudiced by media publicity or any of the other matters to which he refers?

For our part, we trust that the court will consider the merits of the case in full, and that Shirley Porter will therefore have yet another chance to refute the mountain of evidence against her.

But this is only the latest in a long series of so far spurned opportunities, including the 13 interviews she attended with her legal representatives and the public hearing at which she declined to give evidence. In the High Court she can take the opportunity to answer the charges against her in public and face examination on her version of events.

It is typical of a sustained black propaganda campaign that even before the case has opened Shirley Porter's apologists should be seeking to cast doubt on the validity of the outcome. But we are surprised and disappointed to find so distinguished a journalist among them.

No, Lord Rees-Mogg: Shirley Porter finds herself in court not because of who she is but because of what the auditor found that she did.

As former Westminster councillors, all we ask is that at last justice be done, and well and truly be seen to be done.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BRADLEY,
KAREN BUCK,
ANDREW DISMORE,
House of Commons.
September 19.

From Mr John Ware

Sir, In defending Dame Shirley Porter, William Rees-Mogg says the central question at her forthcoming High Court appeal against the district auditor's £31.6 million surcharge for "gerrymandering" will be whether she has had "a fair trial".

The auditor may have acted as prosecutor and judge as Rees-Mogg suggests, but he can hardly be blamed for following the procedure laid down by the last Government.

Rees-Mogg ignored the central question: the sheer volume of documentary evidence — some in Dame Shirley's own hand — that, according to the auditor, showed how she tried to fix the 1990 election by concentrating resources from Westminster City Council's housing, planning and environment departments on the eight most marginal wards.

One document mentioned in the auditor's report said there was an "immediate need to socially engineer the population in marginal wards"; another spoke of an "economic justification for G-Mander on housing". Dame Shirley herself urged her colleagues to "swallow [the documents] in true spy fashion".

Rees-Mogg is wrong to say that my BBC *Panorama* exposé which led to the auditor's investigation "relied on local objectors who were Lady Porter's political opponents". We carried no such interviews. We did carry an interview with a Conservative Party "whistleblower".

Since then Dame Shirley has failed to explain the contents of her own documents. Next month she will have that opportunity before three High Court judges. Her credibility remains the central question.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WARE
(Reporter), *Panorama*,
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Room 1118, 201 Wood Lane, W12.
September 18.

From Mr M. O'Malley

Sir, I do not recall William Rees-Mogg expressing concern for Mr Derek Hatton or his colleagues on Liverpool Council in 1993.

Yours faithfully,
M. O'MALLEY,
1 Ash Grove,
Little Sutton, South Wirral.
a1356756@infotrade.co.uk
September 18.

A-level lit crit

From Mr Adam A. C. Barnard

Sir, Mrs Sharon Footerman's statement (letter, September 12; see also letter, September 17) that A-level literature candidates "are required to take copies of their set texts into the examination" is an unfair generalisation: under the Oxford and Cambridge board, at least, only one of the four components ("Close textual analysis") is an "open-text" examination. The purpose of such a paper is to allow candidates to demonstrate a detailed understanding of the text without the cumbersome inhibition of needing to memorise quotations: a literature exam is a test not of memory but of analytical skills.

Further, candidates are forbidden from annotating blank pages. The syllabus makes clear that only light annotations in the margin of the text itself are permitted and it is the duty of the examiner to ensure that candidates have not written in "complete model answers". The questions asked in an open-text examination take into account the presence of an annotated text and deliberately aim to make candidates do some "real thinking" by asking them to approach the text in a way they are unlikely to have anticipated or rehearsed.

In my experience, having sat the exam in June, these open-text papers often prove, if anything, more challenging than "closed-text" ones.

Yours faithfully,
A. A. C. BARNARD,
3 The Terrace, Barnes, SW13.

From Miss Elisabeth Williamson

Sir, As an A-level student preparing to sit the English literature examination next June, I was intrigued to learn that I will not be expected to do any "real thinking" during the exam, and by the suggestion that I will be able to write "complete model answers" in my set textbooks before entering the examination hall.

I would respectfully point out that, while the number of possible questions that can be asked on the texts is virtually limitless, the number of blank pages in the front and back of the set textbooks is not.

Until someone introduces me to the art of fitting large numbers of "complete" answers into six blank pages, I plan to resign myself to really thinking during the exam.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH WILLIAMSON,
180 Mountsandel Road,
Coleraine, Co Londonderry.
September 17.

From Mr Michael Berry

Sir, It is not true that "all" A-level English literature candidates are "required" to take their texts into examinations.

Ours don't. In 1997 most of them got A or B grades.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BERRY
(Head of English),
St Bede's College,
Alexandra Park, Manchester.
September 12.

Viscount Tonypandy

From Dr. W. Dewi Rees

Sir, Viscount Tonypandy's life was varied and fulfilled (obituary, September 23) but it was at Aberfan, in 1966, that he experienced the depths of human despair and was most fortified by his Christian faith.

As Minister in the Welsh Office he had the shattering experience of being the Government's representative during this cruel tragedy when a coal waste tip slid down the mountainside and engulfed a school where over a hundred children died. He said last year, in the foreword he kindly wrote for a book of mine.

> I shall never forget stepping over the bodies of little boys and girls as rescuers dragged them from the sludge. I visited every home that suffered sudden bereavement, and the concentrated agony of weeping families has left a scar on me for the rest of my life.

Yours sincerely,
DEWI REES,
Plott Cottage, Plott Lane,
Stretton-on-Dunsmore,
Warwickshire.
September 23.

Lib Dems and pensions

From Mr Michael Fogarty

Sir, Baroness Maddock moves this week at Eastbourne a resolution calling on voters to support "excellent Liberal Democrat policies" on pensions, such as — the first item on the list — "retain the basic state pension increased in line with prices".

The purpose of a pension is, of course, to replace earned income. When I was coming up to pension age the state pension replaced about a quarter of an average earner's pay.

Year by year that replacement rate has fallen, and by the time my children, now in their fifties, reach my age it will be all of seven pence in the pound. This policy, of course, is what John Major also promised and what Tony Blair fought Barbara Castle to preserve.

Some Liberality, some excellence: can't pay, won't pay. In the days when we were the ones who had to pay, we of the much poorer war and postwar generation thought differently.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL FOGARTY
(Member, Liberal (Democrat) panel
on tax and social security, 1974-91),
Red Copse,
Foxcombe Road,
Boars Hill, Oxford.
100662.2111@compuserve.com
September 22.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Of London walks and palace walls

From Mr Todd Longstaffe-Gowan

Sir, Whilst there is much to applaud in Mr Terry Farrell's scheme for the "Diana-isation" of London ("The royal route to the people's promenade", September 13), I take grave exception to his proposal to pull down the venerable brick walls which surround the gardens of Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace.

These great early 19th-century walls are among the last survivors of the high protective barriers which once screened London's aristocratic townhouses from the dirt and noise of the metropolis.

The gardens of Burlington House, Devonshire House and Lansdowne House were all enclosed in this way, and at Harcourt House in Cavendish Square — once described as "rather like a convent than a residence of a man of quality" — 80ft high screens of iron and ground glass screened the garden from the outer world.

Like the mansions they once protected, almost all have been swept away. By all means make the gardens of the royal palaces more accessible to the public, but in doing so respect the historic features which have ensured their survival up to the present day.

Yours sincerely,
TODD LONGSTAFFE-GOWAN
(Editor, *Journal of the
London Historic Parks and
Gardens Trust*),
4a Dalmeny Mansions,
77 Anson Road, N7.
September 14.

From Mrs Marcus Agius

Sir, Mr Edward Leigh, MP (letter, September 17), and some other politicians appear to forget that London is a living city where traffic needs to flow as freely as possible.

The horrendous jams of the last few days, when The Mall and roads into Hyde Park have been closed to cars, cannot and should not be a permanent part of London life.

Having the great capital at a standstill is not a fitting part of any tribute to Princess Diana.

Yours sincerely,
KATE AGIUS,
7 South Terrace, SW7.
September 17.

The Booker booked

From Mr Ian Brammer

Sir, The title of a Booker prize novel (Mr John O'Byrne's letter, September 19) will depend more on timing than on plot.

Before the competition *Great Expectations* or *Vanity Fair* would be appropriate. After the judging the unsuccessful authors could choose between *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Hard Times*, *Decline and Fall* and *The Long Goodbye*. The winner would select *Victory* or *Brave New World*.

Yours faithfully,
IAN BRAMMER,
Cesterbridge House,
Rainow, Macclesfield, Cheshire.
September 19.

From Mr Tim Nagley

Sir, In his search for a title, Mr O'Byrne should perhaps avoid *The Booker Book*, which was used by Simon Brett in 1989 as the title for his most entertaining novel about an enterprising first-time novelist attempting to win the prize.

Yours faithfully,
TIM NAGLEY,
29 Hillfield Road, NW6.
timn@globalnet.co.uk
September 19.

Pennies for heaven?

From Mrs Ingram Lloyd

Sir, I was somewhat mortified to discover (report, "Royal Mint offers a thought for your pennies", September 17) that our church may be unwittingly adding to the national shortage of pennies.

Our collection of "mites and groats" in small containers has been ongoing for several years. The monthly count of pennies is tedious, but I will endeavour to speed up the recycling of our pence back into the national coffers.

With apologies,
INGRAM LLOYD
(Sulgrave Church mites and
groats co-ordinator),
Church Cottage,
Sulgrave, Banbury, Oxfordshire.
September 17.

Taste on tap

From Lieutenant-Commander J. H. McGivering, RNR (retd)

Sir, Mr Garry Garrard (letter, September 23) can improve the quality of his tapwater by adopting very simple procedures that can be carried out at home to produce excellent drinks which I have enjoyed, at the appropriate times, for many years.

1. Add boiling water to tea, pour into a cup containing a little milk: add sugar if desired.
2. Pour cold water into a tumbler containing a few drops of Angostura and three or four tablespoons of gin.

Your obedient servant,
J. H. McGIVERING,
32 Cheltenham Place,
Brighton, East Sussex.
September 23.

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 23: Lady Dugdale has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 23: The Duke of York, Patron, Round Square, this morning visited Westfield School, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, and was received by Colonel Hugh Brown (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
September 23: Princess Alexandra, President of the British School at Rome, this afternoon received Professor Fergus Millar upon relinquishing his appointment as Chairman of the Council and Professor Geoffrey Rickman upon assuming the appointment.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester will visit Abbotsford, Melrose, Roxburghshire, at 2.45

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will visit Amble, Northumberland, at 10.45; will visit the marina at Braid, at 11.40; will visit Holy Island Castle, at 1.45; and will visit Bamburgh Castle at 3.50; and the Grace Darling Museum, Bamburgh, at 4.30.

The Duke of Kent, as President, the RNLI, will attend a lifeboat naming ceremony, Hull Marina, Humber Dock Street, Kingston-upon-Hull, at 1.20. Later, he will attend a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony by the London Philharmonic Choir at the Festival Hall at 7.00. Princess Alexandra, as Patron of the 50th anniversary year, will also attend.

Princess Alexandra will visit the WRVS Day Centre, Stewart House, Looms Lane, Bury St Edmunds, at 1.05; will visit St Edmunds Hospital, St Mary's Square, at 1.45; and as President, will visit the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Shop, 26 Abbeygate Street, at 3.00.

Earl Cadogan

A memorial service for Earl Cadogan, MC, DL, will be held at noon on Tuesday, October 7, 1997, at St Luke's Church, Chelsea, SW3.

Big Bang Ball

The Lord Mayor of London will draw the raffle for The Cancer Research Campaign at the eleventh Big Bang Ball which will be held for 3,000 guests in The Café Royal on Friday, October 24. £39 tickets and invitations from 0171-931 8849.

Luncheon

Arts Council

The Earl of Gowrie, Chairman of the Arts Council of England, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at 14 Great Peter Street. Among those present were:

Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP, Mr Richard Holmes, Mr Gavin Henderson, Mr Ian Rickson, Mr Brian Attwood, Mr Nik Powell, Ms Jane Ferguson, Mr Alain de Botton, Councillor Jeremy Fraser, Mr Bush Hartshorn and Professor Richard Steinitz.

Reception

American Chamber of Commerce (UK)

Mr Charles A. Ford, Minister for Commercial Affairs at the American Embassy, was the host at a reception held yesterday at the Embassy for the American Chamber of Commerce (UK) and London First Centre to mark the new alliance between the two organisations.

Today's birthdays

Miss Svetlana Beriozova, ballerina, 65; Sir Mervyn Brown, diplomat, 74; Professor T.E. Burlin, former Rector and Emeritus Professor, Westminster University, 66; Mr Frank J. Davies, chairman, Health and Safety Commission, 66; Sir Seymour Egerton, former chairman, Coutts and Company, 82; Mr Brian Glanville, author and journalist, 66; Vice-Admiral Sir Alan Grose, 60; Professor Richard Hoggart, former Warden, Goldsmiths' College, 79; Mrs Catherine Hughes, former Principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 64; Mr Robert Jackson, MP, 51; Sir David Lane, former MP, 75; Professor G.P. McNicol, former Vice-Chancellor, Aberdeen University, 68; Professor Bernard Nevill, designer, 63; Mr Anthony Newley, actor and singer, 66; Mr John Rutter, composer and conductor, 52; Mr J.D.M. Smith, former chairman, APV, 58; Mr L. Urquhart, former chairman, Burmah Castrol, 62; Sir Jean-Pierre Warner, former High Court judge, 73.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Albrecht von Wallenstein, general, Hermanice, Bohemia, 1583; Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, writer, London, 1717; Samuel R. Crockett, novelist, Little Duchrae, Kirkcudbright, 1860; Georges Claude, engineer, Paris, 1870; Sir Alan (A. P.) Herbert, writer and politician, Elstead, Surrey, 1890; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, St Paul, Minnesota, 1896; Howard Walter Florey, Baron Florey, pathologist, creator of penicillin therapy, Nobel laureate 1945, Adelaide, 1898; Sir William Dobell, painter, Newcastle, NSW, 1899; Konstantin Chernenko, General Secretary of the Soviet Community Party 1984-85, Bolshaya Tes, Central Siberia, 1911.

DEATHS: Paracelsus, physician, Salzburg, 1541; Niels Finsen, physician, Nobel laureate 1903, Copenhagen, 1904; Melanie Klein, psychoanalyst, London, 1960.

The St Leger horse race was run for the first time, Doncaster, 1776.

Private Lives by Noël Coward was first performed in London starring Coward and Gertrude Lawrence, 1930.

The first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the *USS Enterprise*, was launched Newport, Virginia, 1960.

Latest wills

Charlie **Chester**, the comedian and broadcaster, of Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent, left estate valued at £358,777 net.

He left £100,000 to his wife Joan; £75,000 to his son Peter; £10,000 to the Grand Order of Water Rats; £5,000 to Miss Sheila Holt for a very valued friendship; £3,000 to Miss Josie Yenn as a token of his appreciation for her unstinting loyalty and friendship over the years; £6,000 to John and Lydia Dyson with gratitude for "making me one of the family".

The Dowager Baroness **McGowan**, of Bragborough Hall, Daventry, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £2,604,051 net.

Lady (Margaret) **Read**, of London W11, left estate valued at £220,601 net.

Wilhelmina Crapo Wheeler **Minet**, of London W8, left estate valued at £5,641,833 net.

She left £250,000 each to St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, National Trust, American Museum in Britain, Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, Huguenot Society of GB and Ireland; £100,000 to the English Speaking Union for a teaching scholarship and to establish an awards fund.

Robert **Appleby**, retired company director, of Englefield Green, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,416,865 net.

Margaret Jane **Beard**, of Cobham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,452,958 net.

Michael Jeremy Kindersley **Belmont**, of Standlake, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £2,071,472 net.

Michael Thomas Usborne **Collier**, of Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,467,995 net.

Hubert Edward Kenneth **Cotton**, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,043,493 net.

Gustav **Delbanco**, of London NW3, left estate valued at £1,559,146 net.

Willoughby Reginald Alexander **Fetherstonhaugh**, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,477,748 net.

Jane Mooney **Fullerton**, of Bromley, Kent, left estate valued at £1,464,000 net.

Arthur Neville **Garratt**, company director, of Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £1,296,197 net.

He left £100 to the Parish of the Priory, Malvern.

Barbara Margaret **Hester**, of London W8, left estate valued at £1,395,805 net.

She left £1,000 to Alcoholics Anonymous and to the NSPCC.

Victor **Kent**, of Tring, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,039,669 net.

Rupert Ivor **Kinross**, of Shepperton, Middlesex, left estate valued at £1,008,369 net.

Elly Trude **Landauer**, of London N6, left estate valued at £1,046,218 net.

Desmond Francis Kiernan **Leedon**, of Walton on Thames, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,131,458 net.

Ann Mary **MacKenzie**, of Caldy, Wirral, Merseyside, left estate valued at £1,366,588 net.

James Frederick **Maddocks**, of Wincanton, Somerset, left estate valued at £2,887,232 net.

He left the remainder of his estate between Ridley House League of Friends, Wincanton, Somerset, Friends of Verrington Hospital, Wincanton, Somerset, League of Friends of Yeovil District Hospital, Wincanton Memorial Hall Foundation, Wincanton Branch of the Red Cross, Wincanton Recreational Trust and the National Trust.

Lilian Maud **Marsh**, of Dunsley, nr Stourbridge, West Midlands, left estate valued at £1,749,257 net.

She left £2,000 to Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire and St Peter's Church, Kinver, near Stourbridge.

Michael Julian Runciman **Miller**, solicitor, of London W11, left estate valued at £1,408,804 net.

He left £250 to Thames Hares and Hounds and to the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers.

Gordon Allen **Moore**, of Chislehurst, Kent, left estate valued at £1,452,181 net.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Canon Price, left, the new Bishop of Kingston, with the Right Rev Roy Williamson, Bishop of Southwark, yesterday

Bishop will aim at unbelievers

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CANON PETER PRICE, who becomes Bishop of Kingston, an area bishop in Southwark, yesterday pledged to create "new models" of the church to help to bring those of little or no religious belief back into the Christian community.

"The Diana event a few weeks ago revealed, as perhaps no other event has done in recent times, a search for ritual, significance, belonging," he said. "The rather crude statistical observation of 31 million people saying the Lord's Prayer may raise quizzical eyebrows, but what is exposed is a longing, a need for new patterns of spirituality."

Canon Price, 53, moves to Kingston from his post as general secretary of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG), a worldwide mission agency based in London.

He made a strong impression among church leaders with his imaginative restructuring of the society after a financial crisis at the start of the decade, leaving it fit to celebrate 300 years of mission in 2001.

Canon Price was born near Kingston upon Thames and became a teacher, being ordained in 1974 after studying at the evangelical Oak Hill Theological College. He has travelled widely, and earlier this year was appointed chairman of the Manna Society, a project for the homeless and refugees, which runs a day centre near London Bridge.

School news

Eaton House School

To celebrate our centenary, Eaton House, Belgravia, will be holding a number of functions throughout the year. This will commence with a ball to be held on Saturday, October 25, at Eaton House The Manor, Clapham Common Northside. Tickets at £55 per person (inclusive of wine) are available from the Ball Organiser, past pupils and parents are welcome. If you would like information about other events or memorabilia or would simply like to keep in touch with other old boys please send your details to: Eaton House School, Centenary Office, 58 Clapham Common Northside, London SW4 9RU.

University news

Durham

The following have been promoted to Professor from October 1, 1997:

Dr Richard Britnell (History): Dr Britnell joined the university as a Lecturer in Economic History in 1966. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1986 and to Reader of History in 1994.

Dr David Fairlie (Mathematical Sciences): Dr Fairlie joined the university as a Lecturer in 1964 and was promoted Reader in 1969.

Dr Peter Manning (Music): Dr Manning joined the university as a Senior Experimental Officer in 1973 and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1989.

Dr Michael Penington (Mathematical Sciences and Physics): Dr Pennington joined the university as a Senior Research Assistant in 1980. He was promoted to Research Officer in 1981, Senior Lecturer in 1990 and to Reader in 1994.

Dr Paul Sillitoe (Anthropology): Dr Sillitoe joined the university as a Lecturer in 1984 and was promoted to Reader in 1992.

The following are promoted to Reader:

Dr Gerald Brooke (Chemistry), Dr Anne Campbell (Psychology), Dr Robert Drewett (Psychology), Dr Max Paddison (Music), Dr Robert Barton (Anthropology), Dr Christopher Brooks (History), Dr Gillian Foulger (Geological Sciences), Dr Andrew Monkman (Physics), Dr Mathew Penrose (Mathematical Sciences), Dr Fiona Robertson (English Studies).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Orr-Ewing
and Miss P.M. Gleadell

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of the Hon Simon and Mrs Orr-Ewing, of Fifield, Oxfordshire, and Polly, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Giles Gleadell, of Clapham, SW4.

Mr G.T.J. de Trafford
and Miss S. Evans

The engagement is announced between Thomas, youngest son of Sir Dermot de Trafford, Bt, and Countess Michalowska, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Evans, of Johannesburg.

Mr R.M. Chadwick
and Miss S.V. Beaugié

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Chadwick, of Sale, Cheshire, and Siân, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Beaugié, of Highgate, London.

Mr H.R. Jones
and Miss A.C. Procter

The engagement is announced between Hume, eldest son of His Honour Judge and Mrs Graham Jones, of Somerset, and Abigail, youngest daughter of the late Mr Charles Procter and of Mrs James Nicholas and stepdaughter of Mr James Nicholas, of Herefordshire.

Mr G.R. Keeling
and Miss M.P.J. Richards

The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Major General and Mrs Andrew Keeling, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Penelope, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Gwilym Richards, of Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire.

Mr X.M.P. Marchand
and Miss A. Elliot

The engagement is announced between Xavier, younger son of M Pierre Marchand, of Peymeinade, France and of the late Mme France Marchand, and Alexandra, elder daughter of Mr Graeme Elliot, of London, and Signora Luigi Grassi, of Florence, Italy.

Mr C. Wheeler-Carmichael
and Miss L. Bertorelli

The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of the late Mr Tom Wheeler-Carmichael and of Mrs Jane Wheeler-Carmichael, of Bath, and Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Bertorelli, of Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan.

Mr S.C. Farmbrough
and Miss S. Yun

The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs S.C.Y. Farmbrough, of Pavenham, Bedfordshire, and Suna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Yun, of Kanagawa, Japan.

Mr A.P. Nettleton
and Miss P.J. Shaw

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John Nettleton, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Shaw, of Sydling St Nicholas, Dorset.

Mr G.N. Snell
and Miss J.S. Morkill

The engagement is announced between Guy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs L.N. Snell, of Lower Farm, Cottered, Hertfordshire, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr Tom Morkill and Mrs Mary Jane Branch.

Marriages

Dr the Hon Humphrey Drummond
and Miss Z.D. Rankin

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 20, at Cranston Church, of Dr the Hon Humphrey Drummond, second son of Captain Humphrey Drummond of Megginch and Lady Strange, to Miss Zara Daisy Rankin, only daughter of Sir Ian Rankin, Bt, and Mrs George Asseily.

A reception took place at Oxenfoord Castle, near Edinburgh.

Mr R.H. Hartley
and Miss J.M. Goor

The marriage took place on Tuesday, September 23, at Chelsea Register Office, of Mr Robin Hartley, son of Sir Christopher Hartley, of Farmoor, Oxford, and of the late Lady Hartley, and Miss Jacqueline Goor, daughter of the late Mr Yves Goor and of Mrs Goor, of Co Wicklow.

Mr J.M.P. Bacon
and Miss R.E. Hudson

The marriage took place on September 13, 1997, at St Andrew's Church, Preston with Sutton Poyntz, of Jonathan, son of Patsy and Roger Bacon, of Arlingham, Gloucestershire, to Ruth, daughter of Christine and Malcolm Hudson, of Preston, Dorset.

The Leverhulme Trust

Leverhulme Research Awards 1997

Awards to individuals 1997

The trustees have approved the following awards to individuals under schemes administered by their Research Awards Advisory Committee:

Study Abroad Studentships

C Anderson, Indian convicts in Southeast Asia, c.1780-1840 — India

A French, Architectural space frames enlarging and activating the void — Canada

H J Gardner, Antisemitism in Japan: an historical analysis — Japan

R C Gibbons, Women and power in later medieval France — France

P J Gillingham, Cuauhtémoc's bones: archaeology and nationalism in Mexico — Mexico

J S Gillon, Natural variation in leaf water isotopic composition — Israel

T E B Heys, Application of interactive technologies in contemporary arts — Australia

N P Higgins, Mayan Indians and the modern Mexican state 1810-1994 — Mexico

A N W Hone, Integrable systems: reductions and applications — Italy

C S Hughes, Electoral accountability in Cambodia — Cambodia

K M Huxley, The metamorphosis of time in place — Ireland

C A L Lane, Novel methodology for synthesis of substituted aromatics — Canada

J R F Lipkin, Citizen politics in Britain and France — France

C M M Lupton, Negation in French experimental cinema since 1945 — France

R Mohammad, Spanish regionalism and the politics of water — Spain

M D Pearson, Synthesis of organic sounds using cellular models — Australia

M N Prescott, Ecological niche partitioning between Australian *acacia* species — Australia

P J Rand, Narrative impulse in 13th-century romance compilations — France

J Rynhold, Israeli political culture, America and the Palestinian question — Israel

J-A Scott, Modelling lodgepole pine invasion in New Zealand — New Zealand

P A Spikins, Archaeological [illegible] ethno-archaeological research [illegible] Patagonian hunter-gatherers — Argentina

J Stewart, The lecture as form: modernity and self-representation — Germany

S J Van Willigenburg, The D(n)-Lie structure of free associative algebras — Canada

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The Jews at Beroea were more fair-minded than those at Thessalonica: they received the message with great eagerness, studying the scriptures every day to see if it was true. Acts of the Apostles 17 : 11

BIRTHS

BERLYNE - On September 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Gabrielle and David, a daughter, Lauren Rachel, a sister for Jonah.

BEWICKE-COPLEY - To Lord and Lady Cromwell, a son, David Godfrey, 21st September 1997.

BIDWELL - On September 19th to Claire (née Wright) and Rupert, a son, Thomas Piers John.

CHAPMAN - On 23rd September 1997, to Sally (née Brown) and Robert, a son, Sam Henry.

DREWERY - On 10th September, to Marion (née Hill) and Robert, a son, Alexander James Edward.

GREVILLE WILLIAMS - On 20th September, to Emma (née Barry) and Jeremy, a daughter, Rose Antonia, a sister for Tom and Daisy.

HAWKSLEY - See Bewicke-Copley.

HORKULAK - On September 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Lisa (née Cooper) and Steven, a daughter, Beatrice, a sister for Hannah.

LESTER - On 18th September at The Portland Hospital, to Lindsey and Richard, a beautiful daughter, Georgia Sophie.

MACLENNAN - On September 20th, at The Portland Hospital, to Kathleen (née Foye) and David, a daughter, Catherine Churchill, a sister for Jack and Maggie.

MALONEY - On September 12th 1997, to Connor and Fleur, a beautiful daughter Emerald Rose, a sister for Sebastian.

SCANLON - On September 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Mary (née Vahey) and Rob, a daughter, Olivia.

SMILLIE - On 5th September at St John's Hospital, Chelmsford to Lorraine and Robert, the gift of a daughter, Emily Kate.

WOODROW - On September 17th in Sydney, to Sarah (née Jackson) and James, a daughter, Laura Sally.

DEATHS

ALEXANDER - W.A. (Bill). Died peacefully on Saturday 20th September at Nashley Nursing Home after a progressive illness. Much loved husband of Sonia, father of Susan, Sally, Jane and Jimmy, Step-father of Sarah Miles, Fiona and devoted grandfather. A private cremation, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving for family and friends at Medmenham Parish Church at 3pm on October 1st. No flowers. Donations if wished to Alzheimers Research Trust. Donations and enquiries to Soverign Funeral Service, Wendover. Tel: 01296 696224.

ALLEN - Dick (Douglas) aged 51. On September 20th, after a short illness. Much loved husband of Sue and father of Tammy and Kirsty. Dearly missed by family, friends and colleagues within the horticultural industry and as President of the Horticultural Trades Association. Funeral Service at All Saint's, Crowborough on Thursday October 2nd at 11.00a.m. Family Flowers only. Donations if desired for Oxfam to Paul Bysouth Funeral Services, Crowborough (01892)655000.

BENSON - Susan N.S.S.J.D. (née Kitty Benson) September 19th, at St John's House, Alum Rock Road, Birmingham aged 80. Beloved sister of Jan Benson of Affcott Hall, Church Stretton, Shropshire. Funeral service followed by cremation in Birmingham on Friday September 26th at 1pm.

BLAKE - Eugene Percival Thomas (Hugh) Lt. Col. (retired) after a brief illness on September 21st 1997. Husband of Mary, beloved father of Peter and Derek and adored grandfather of Jennifer, Michael, Caroline, Nicholas and Alexandra. Requiem Mass to be held at St Andrew's Church, Tenterden on Wednesday October 1st at 11am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to cancer research c/o T.W. Piggle & Son, 20 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent.

BURKITT - Dr. William R. on 23rd September, peacefully in Herefordshire, formerly of East Africa. Thanks be to God. For funeral arrangements please contact Dawe Bros., (01432) 274066.

BURROUGH - Suzanne Cecile (née Jourdan) at home on Saturday 20th September. Widow of John, and loved mother and grandmother. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St Michael and All Angels Church, Guiting Power on Monday 29th September at 2.30pm. No flowers, donations if desired to Moore Cottage Hospital, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

CARTER - Geoffrey Thomas, brother of Edward, peacefully at Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, Friday 19th September 1997.

COOPER - Albert Stewart (Stew) DFM. RAF. (Rtd), suddenly in Worthing Hospital on 21st September, aged 73 years. Formerly with 83. Pathfinder Squadron and 50. Squadron Bomber Command, Air Traffic Examining Board - Shawbury and NATS - West Drayton. Cherished husband of Susie née Aris, dear father of Jon and Angus, proud grampa of Hamish, Ross and Daniel, brother of Greta. Funeral Service at Worthing Crematorium on Tuesday 30th September at 2.00pm. Flowers or donations to Sussexdown RAFA Home, Storrington c/o H.D. Tribe Ltd, 130 Broadwater Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 8HU. Telephone - 01903 234516.

COVILL - Frederick Charles on 20th September 1997, peacefully at his home in Chichester, aged 97 years. Beloved father of Richard and Anthony, grandfather of Sarah, Charles, Harriet, Lucilla, Piers and Joe. Cremation at Chichester Crematorium on Thursday 2nd October 1997 at 4.30pm. Family flowers only, donations if wished may be sent to St Wilfrids Hospice, Chichester PO19 2FP.

CUDE - Suddenly but peacefully on 13th September 1997, Geoffrey aged 64 years. The beloved husband of Jean and father of Simon, Victoria and the late Jonathan. Funeral Service to take place with a Graveside Service in Southwick Cemetery on Friday 26th September 1997, at 2pm. Enquiries to Baker & Sons, 60 Church Road, Portslade. Tel: 01273 418464.

DEMPSTER - Edythe Newman (CIS). On 20th September 1997 suddenly but happily at home in Edinburgh. Devoted wife of the late Sandy, darling mother of Jonathan and Claire, adored Grandmother and Great-grandmother. Funeral at 11.45 a.m. on Friday 26th September at Mortonhall Crematorium Pentland Chapel. Family flowers only please.

EVETTS - Peacefully at home on September 21st aged 88 years Dr. Leonard Charles Evetts of Woolsington. Beloved husband of Phyl and the late Jo. Funeral Service at St Bartholomew's Church, Benton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on Friday 26th September at 2pm followed by cremation at Newcastle Crematorium at 3 o'clock. Flowers if desired may be sent to J. Bardgett & Sons, Westgate Road, Newcastle.

FERN - John Jacob, died peacefully on September 19th at the Duchess of Kent House, Dellwood Hospital, Reading, Berkshire, after a long and debilitating illness which he had endured courageously. He leaves his loving wife Heather and, from his first marriage, his son Mark and daughter Paulette and her son Oscar. The cremation takes place privately, but there will be a Memorial Service at St. Nicolas's Church, Taplow, Berkshire on Wednesday, October the 1st at 4.00pm, followed by a reception at his home. No flowers but donations to Duchess of Kent House, WBPCS, Dellwood Hospital, Reading, RG30 2DX, will always be welcome.

HENSON - Henry Michael George (Mike) on 18th September in Sherborne aged 53. Much loved husband of Nichola, father of Sarah-Louise, Amanda and Tanya and grandfather of Max. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St. John the Evangelist Church, Milborne Port, Nr. Sherborne, Dorset on 1st October at 3pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, c/o W.S. Brister & Son, 100 Lenthay Road, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 6AG, Tel. No. 01935 812647, for cancer research.

HOOKHAM - Idell (née Sim) on 22nd September, peacefully at Brockhampton Court, Herefordshire aged 76. Dear Aunt of David and Sally (Walton). Funeral Service at Hereford Crematorium at 10am, Saturday 27th September. Donations, if desired, to Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Family flowers only. Enquiries to 01981 580316.

LUCZAK. Zygmunt, Jerzy. Died peacefully at home on 21st September aged 84. Much loved husband of the late Elena Luczak, father of Dadina and grandfather. Funeral Service at West Hertfordshire Crematorium (Garston) on Tuesday 30th September at 12.00. Family flowers only but donations to Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, Copeman House, St.Mary's Court, St. Mary's Gate, Chesterfield S41 7TD

McCUTCHEON - On 21 September 1997, suddenly but peacefully aged 79 Donald Sutherland McCutcheon M.C. of WestHorsley Surrey late 4th P.W. O. Gurkha Rifles and Royal Artillery. Beloved husband of Jean (née Mercer), much loved father of Maggie Solon and Annie Page and proud grandfather of seven. Funeral at All Saints Church, Ockham, on Thursday, 25th September 1997 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu to the Gurkha Welfare Trust, 88 Baker Street, London W1 2AX. Enquiries to Pimms: 01483 567394.

McCUTCHEON - On 21 September 1997, suddenly but peacefully aged 79 Donald Sutherland McCutcheon M.C. of West Horsley Surrey late 4th P.W.O. Gurkha Rifles and Royal Artillery. Beloved husband of Jean (née Mercer), much loved father of Maggie Solon and Annie Page and proud grandfather of seven. Funeral at All Saints Church, Ockham, on Thursday, 25th September 1997 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu to the Gurkha Welfare Trust, 88 Baker Street, London W1 2AX. Enquiries to Pimms: 01483 567394.

METCALFE - Peter Allum suddenly at his home in West Hampstead on 18th September. Dearly loved brother of Vera. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on 29th September, 12.30pm. Enquiries John Nodes & Sons 0181 452 2430.

MOORE - Barzie (Eleanor Victoria) (née Van den Bok). Very peacefully on September 21st 1997, aged 100 years. Wife of the late Major George Guy Moore. Much beloved and respected by her family, Michael and Anna Moore and three generations of nephews and nieces. Funeral Service at All Saint's Church, Whiteparish on Monday 29th September at 11.00 a.m. Flowers or donations in her memory to Oxfam or the R.S.P.B. c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Griffin House, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury, SP1 1HL. Tel: (01722) 413136.

MUSGROVE - (née Morgan). Suddenly on September 22nd at Weston General Hospital, Margaret Muriel aged 85. Widow of Major Oswald Rylett Musgrove, The Green Howards. Much loved mother of Peter and Debbie. Enquiries to Keith C. Britton & Son, Funeral Directors, 10 High Street, Yatton, North Somerset BS19 4JA. Tel: 01934 832115.

NEWCASTLE - Diana Duchess of Newcastle died 19th September 1997 peacefully at home aged 77. Funeral private. Service of Thanksgiving for her life Tuesday 28th October 1997, Boyton Parish Church, 3pm. Donations will be divided between cancer research and The Injured Jockey's Fund c/o F Curtis & Son, Funeral Directors, 11 Portway, Warminster (01985) 212033 or in a collection at the church.

NILSSON - Angela née Cambitzi. Beloved wife of Ted, mother of Helena and Claire. Died peacefully on September 21st. Funeral Service at the Greek Cathedral, Moscow Road, London on Thursday 25th September at 2pm followed by cremation at Putney Vale at 4pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Princess Alice Hospice c/o F. W. Paine 29 Coombe Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 7AY.

OWTRAM - Rosemarie (née Webb-Johnson) on 21st September in hospital after injuries bravely endured. Funeral at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Monday 29th September at 4pm. Friends welcome. Enquiries to E. R. Hickmott & Sons, 01892 522462.

PINDER - On September 19th Margaret dear sister of John and founder of The Pinder Centre. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Alresford on Saturday October 11th at 11am. No flowers. Donations if desired, to The Pinder Centre, Avington, Hampshire SO21 1DD.

READE - Pamela Lanham 23rd September peacefully at home. Dearly beloved wife of Frank Reade. Service at Thornton Crematorium on Monday 29th September at 2pm. No flowers please, but donations to R.N.L.I. c/o H. Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE.

SCOTT - Walter. Died peacefully on 20th September 1997. Beloved husband of Kathleen, grandfather to Kim, Seldon and Julian. Funeral, Kingston Crematorium, Friday 26th September, 3.40pm. Family flowers only. Donations and enquiries to funeral directors, 0181 546 3223.

SLEE - John Ingham. On September 22nd after a short illness. Beloved husband of Errol, devoted father of Tom and Nicola (Underwood) and grandfather of Christopher and Jessica. Funeral Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton, Monday September 29th, 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to any cancer charity.

SOOT - 1982-1997. From heaven he was sent and to heaven he returns. With my eternal love. Tony.

SPALDING - Annie Phyllis, September 21st 1997. Peacefully at her home, Gower House, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey after long suffering aged 89 years. Beloved wife of Keith, private service at Bangor Crematorium. No flowers.

STICKNEY - Richard, Currier. Died peacefully in Tucson, Arizona, USA on the 22nd September. Much loved husband of Juanita, father of Francis and grandfather of Jasper. Funeral in Tucson. Donations if desired to, Help the Hospices, 34/44 Britannia Street London WC1X 9JG

STRACHAN - Peggy. Died very peacefully after many years of loving care in a nursing home on 22nd September. Beloved wife of the late Charles Strachan, wonderful mother to Heather and Patricia, grandmother of Nicholas, Kirsty, Stephen, Angela and Jessica. Thanksgiving Service on Monday 29th September at 3pm, Bramshott Church, Liphook. Family flowers only. Donations to R.N.L.I. to be sent to G. M. Luff and Partners, 84, Lion Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1JH.

STOWELL - Marion (Norah) passed peacefully away on September 20th aged 81 years. Sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral Service on Thursday September 25th, Oxford Crematorium at 4pm.

TABOR - Geoffrey Michael, MBE, died peacefully at The Grange Nursing Home, Blunsdon St Andrew, on 22 September aged 70, after a long illness. Beloved husband of Andrée, much loved father of Christopher, father-in-law of Rebecca and grandfather of Matthew. Funeral service at 2.30pm on Friday 26 September at All Hallows Church, South Cerney, Nr Cirencester. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to the Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o Mr R Carter, Funeral Director, Chelvey, High Rd, Ashton Keynes, Wilts (01285 861392)

TURNER - Philip, Sculptor, on September 20th; husband of Minky (Elisabeth de Stroumillo), father of Venetia and Emma, grandfather of Charlotte and Sophie, after months of debilitating illness. Funeral Service at Chelsea Old Church at noon, October 2nd. No flowers please; donations if wished to Artists General Benevolent Institution, Burlington House, London W1V 0DJ.

WOODS - S. John, Painter and graphic designer. 21.11.1915 - 22.9.1997. Very much loved and missed. Funeral at Barham Crematorium, Friday, 26th September 1997 at 9.30am.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ALLSOPP - The Hon. Norah Hyacinthe, Memorial Service and Committal at St. Peter's Church, Ogley Sunday 12th October 1997 at 11.30a.m. Enquiries 01335 390637

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

HOLLAND - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the late Sir Guy Holland Bt, will be held at St Mary's Church, Burford, Oxfordshire on Thursday 30th October at 2.30pm.

WANSBROUGH - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Nancy Wansbrough will be held in Winchester Cathedral on Saturday, October 25th at 2pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

DE FERRANTI - In loving memory of Bos, still sadly missed by Hilary and all the family.

W.B.R. - Never forgotten. 24th September 1940. Forever remembered, D.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

HUNTSMAN:SAWNEY - Peter William Huntsman to Eileen Elizabeth Sawney at St Andrew's Church, Enfield, Middlesex, 24th September 1947.

BIRTHDAYS

BEATRICE Happy 43rd Wonderful lady. Do miss you, want you and love you loads. Yours always D.

GREEN Nicola Helen 18 years old today. With every good wish for the future. Mum, Dad & James.

MAJOR Robert George Collin Cowe, on his 80th birthday, with lots of love from all his family and friends.

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OBITUARIES

DIANA DUCHESS OF NEWCASTLE

Diana Duchess of Newcastle, jockey and master of foxhounds, died on September 19 aged 77. She was born on June 2, 1920.

Diana Duchess of Newcastle was one of a disappearing breed, the amateur all-rounder in sport. She rode races across Western Europe at a time when women jockeys were forbidden from competing on the flat in mainland Britain. She was a master of foxhounds, a polo player, and a Monte Carlo rally driver (an activity that developed from her role as a wartime dispatch rider). And she made her mark at whatever she tried.

She grew up in the Yorkshire countryside, which she loved. She never went to school, being educated by a succession of governesses. She rode ponies and made friends with all sorts of people, such as the gypsy families who camped on the family estate; when a teenager she cut her wrist to mix blood with a Romany girl, pledging undying friendship.

A good-looking woman with huge dark eyes, she did everything with a sense of style and dash and enjoyment. She could, too, be unpredictable and at times embarrassing. She once went to a hunt ball wearing her father's regimental red jacket, complaining that there was no special uniform for a woman who happened to be a master of foxhounds.

Diana Montague-Stuart-Wortly-Mackenzie was the second daughter of Viscount Carlton, who later became the 3rd Earl of Warncliffe. Her mother, the former Lady Elfreda Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, eldest daughter of the 7th Earl Fitzwilliam, was a redoubtable character who ran her own munitions factory during the Second World War and hunted her own pack of beagles.

That the Duchess should be named Diana after the goddess of hunting, was appropriate. The Earls Fitzwilliam have had their own pack of foxhounds in the Midlands since 1760. And their commitment to racing is almost as great. The family's house party for the Doncaster races each year until the Second World War was the biggest in the country. Guests were each given a different colour of confetti to drop along the corridors of the huge house, Wentworth Woodhouse, so that they could find their way from their bedrooms back to the drawing room. The Duchess's uncle, the 8th Earl Fitzwilliam, raced successfully in Britain, Ireland and France. In 1948 he was killed in a plane crash in the South of France when eloping with the Countess of Hartington, "Kick", the eldest sister of President Kennedy.

Diana Newcastle had a successful war, spending several years in the Motorised Transport Corps, bringing messages a couple of times a week from Cambridge to London on her motorcycle. She became friendly with a number of leading wartime airmen, among them Group Captain Hugh ("Chatty") Dundas, who after the war had a distinguished career with Beaverbrook Newspapers and Thames Television.

The man she married, as his second wife, in 1946 was another airman, the 9th Duke of Newcastle, a prewar civilian pilot who commanded 616 South Yorkshire Squadron and later was a section commander in Fighter Command.

Henry Edward Hugh Pelham-Clinton-Hope, the 9th Duke of Newcastle, was probably the least known of all the non-royal dukes. His ancestor the 1st Duke, of this the second creation, was Thomas Pelham Holles, who was described during his years as Prime Minister in the mid-18th century as a man "whose faults were forgivable and whose intentions were good". The name Hope was added to the family names by the 9th Duke's grandfather when a Miss Hope, the Hope Diamond heiress, married into the family. It was thought that the marriage would finally secure the dukedom's financial future, but later the diamond, of 44 carats, was sold for £120,000 to pay the Newcastle tax debts.

The 9th Duke, like his wife, was keen on sports. He captained Eton at cricket in its year of unbroken success in 1926. He was a successful ice hockey competitor and played the drums in a jazz band at nightclubs whenever he had the opportunity.

Two years after the marriage the 9th Duke decided that he wanted to live on his property in Rhodesia and moved his family there. This was a big disappointment to his new wife. Also, their temperaments clashed and neither supported the sporting interests of the other. In 1950 they returned to England to live in Wiltshire, but the marriage was not a success and after they had lived apart it ended in divorce in 1959, when her husband remarried.

After they separated the Duchess became very active in the horse world. At the age of 32 she rode in her first point-to-point race. It was the hunt race of the Wylye Valley Hunt, a sporting provincial pack with the delightful Vale country on the west side of Salisbury Plain and extending to the outskirts of Bath. It was never a rich hunt, and the Duchess did a great deal of the work herself. She was hunt master for several seasons until the financial drain became too great.

After winning the Queen's Cup women's flat race in 1967

At the age of 34 she entered the Monte Carlo Rally for the first time, driving her Sunbeam Talbot, and finished with a respectable placing. But race riding was to become her passion. While buying horses for the hunt, she chanced to see King Henry's Road, then an eight-year-old. He was turned out in a field as his hot temperament was considered to make him a poor prospect as a racehorse. The Duchess and the horse hit it off splendidly, and over almost a decade he provided her with a string of winning rides.

In 1957 she won the 1½-mile race for the Queen's Cup in Jersey. She set her heart on riding at the main courses, but women were not allowed to ride under the Rules of Racing. She set about getting this state of affairs changed. Meanwhile, she registered as a jockey in France, Italy, Sweden and Germany, where women were not banned. She raced over some of the finest courses in those countries, including Chantilly, mostly on borrowed horses. In Italy, having been admitted to the Italian Association of Gentlemen Riders, she asked the legendary Vincent O'Brien, trainer of Epsom Derby winners and Grand National winners, if he could find her a horse to ride in the amateur Grand National in Merano. He did. But she ended up on the floor and finished the day in hospital after her horse hit one of the solid timber fences and turned over. Three months later she was back in the saddle riding at Larkhill.

In 1972, some 11 years after she started campaigning for women jockeys, the Jockey Club changed its rules to allow them to compete. The Duchess was then 52 years old — rather late for a serious start. But she would not be denied. After six weeks of demanding gymnastics and a strict diet, she got her weight down to 9 stone and started looking round for likely horses. Before calling it a day she rode at her home course Salisbury, and at Doncaster and Folkestone.

The Duke died in 1988, almost a recluse. Having returned from Rhodesia and Jamaica, he went to live in a cottage on the quay at Lymington in Hampshire. The dukedom is now extinct. The Duchess is survived by their two daughters.

PAUL NEWMAN

Paul Newman, architect, died on holiday in Spain as the result of a fall on September 5 aged 43. He was born on July 27, 1954.

PAUL NEWMAN was a partner in the firm of Powell Moya, the architects made famous by their winning scheme for the Skylon at the 1951 Festival of Britain. The firm has long been distinguished by its specialisation in local authority housing, hospitals and educational buildings — areas in which Newman had a profound interest.

Paul Kenrick Newman was born in Stroud, Gloucestershire, and educated at Mountford House, Nottingham, and at Nottingham High School. From there he went on to Bristol University to train, qualifying as an architect in 1980. He worked briefly with the gifted designers Tom Hancock, Peter Bond and Pierre d'Avoine, before joining Powell Moya in 1983.

There, he started work at once on one of their largest commissions, the Hastings District General Hospital, a £30 million, 370-bed building, an involvement which he carried right through until its opening in 1992. On the strength of his contribution he was made an associate in the firm in 1988.

Other commissions on which he worked during these years included St Anne's clinic for the elderly and mentally ill in East Sussex in 1987. Then, as a result of a competition-winning scheme in 1988, he directed the master planning of the Brunswick Wharf and East India Dock Basin in London's Docklands, covering 26 acres altogether, which was completed in 1990, the year he was made a partner.

After this came the competition for the European Parliament building in Strasbourg, a gigantic affair overlooking the river and containing the enormous semi-circular assembly structure, with office accommodation and communication centres framing a central garden. Of course there was a large team working on the project, and this included Sir Philip Powell and Hidalgo Moya, but Newman was the partner in charge, and it was largely his design. The scheme did not, however, win, but came only second — a great disappointment for Newman. The winner was a French architect.

In the next six years he was involved with many different projects: school designs in Tower Hamlets, hospitals in South and North Wales, and one in Belfast. He was also shortlisted for yet another in Graz, Austria.

At the time of his accidental death, caused by a balcony parapet giving way in a Spanish hotel, he had just taken on the design of the Moore extension to the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London, and was on the point of seeing his latest buildings, consisting of additions to the late 19th-century Birmingham Children's Hospital, completed. This was a particularly beautiful work of modern architecture at its simplest and most reticent.

He died while on holiday with his girlfriend and is survived by his father, mother and his two sisters.

DAVID MATTHEWS

David Matthews, CBE, plastic surgeon, died on August 25 aged 86. He was born on July 7, 1911.

DAVID MATTHEWS was pre-eminent among the second generation of British plastic surgeons, and his death severs one of the final links with Gillies, McIndoe, Kilner and Mowlem, the four founding fathers of plastic surgery in the United Kingdom.

Born in Bromley, Kent, David Napier Matthews was educated until the age of ten by his mother and a governess. He won an exhibition from the Leys School to Queens' College, Cambridge, to read modern languages but, once there, changed his mind in favour of medicine. He represented the university at hockey before going on to Charing Cross Hospital with a major scholarship, qualifying in 1935. The next year he became the youngest Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Britain.

He was appointed chief assistant to Sir Stanford Cade, a leading cancer surgeon at the Westminster Hospital, who told him: "I make big holes. Go and learn how to fill them." This he did, from Sir Harold Gillies, Professor Kilner and Sir Archibald McIndoe.

In 1939 he went as McIndoe's first assistant to help with the setting up and running of the famous plastic surgery unit at East Grinstead, spending three days a week there and four at the Westminster.

In 1941 he joined the RAF and ran a 60-bed plastic surgery unit at RAF Halton (where he recalled the men of the Free Polish Air Force as being the most uncontrollable post-operative patients). In 1946 he was demobilised with the rank of wing commander and was appointed OBE. He had also found time to carry out important work on skin graft storage with Dame Honor Fell at Strangeways Laboratories in Cambridge and to write his acclaimed book *Surgery of Repair* (1943).

In 1946 he was appointed consultant to University College Hospital, London, and in 1947 he became consultant to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. In both these NHS posts he gave unstinting service, exhibiting vision and leadership as well as technical mastery. (He was ambidextrous, which earned him the sobriquet "Two-Hands Matthews".)

He was not afraid of innovation, and five years before his retirement in 1976 he went to Paris to learn Paul Tessier's pioneering but complex craniofacial techniques for children with prematurely fused skull bones, before performing in the first of 55 cases in Britain. He was an outstanding teacher.

He became civilian consultant to the Royal Navy and, successively, to BOAC, BEA and BA, as well as being adviser in plastic surgery to the Ministry of Health. He was also much sought-after in private practice, treating a wide variety of people, including many of the most eminent, from royal children to stars of stage and screen.

As secretary of the second international congress in plastic surgery, in London in 1958, he played a major part in founding the International Confederation for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He then nurtured it as its general secretary and treasurer for four years, during which 31 national societies and associations were signed up. This period confirmed the transition of the rapidly developing postwar speciality from a loose amalgamation of societies to a well organised international body accessible to all nations.

He was advanced to CBE in 1976, becoming public spokesman for the British Heart Foundation for several years. On retirement, he took up pottery and fly-fishing and remained an active member of the local volunteer driver service well into his eighties, generally ferrying people to and from hospital who were many years younger than himself.

David Matthews possessed great personal charm and wit, allied to innate curiosity, enormous energy and a deep, even obsessive sense of duty. Physically striking, with piercing blue eyes, he was humane, kind and loyal.

He is survived by his wife Betty, whom he married in 1940, and by two sons and a daughter.

ROBERT PINGET

Robert Pinget, French author, died in Tours on August 25 aged 78. He was born in Geneva on July 19, 1919.

THE author of some thirty books, Robert Pinget was perhaps the most constant but also one of the least-known of the writers associated with the *nouveau roman*, which dominated French literature for nearly three decades. He was saluted as a "precursor" by Alain Robbe-Grillet, the chief propagandist for the school, in which identity, point of view and narrative become problematic, subject to the uncertainties and complexities generated by language itself.

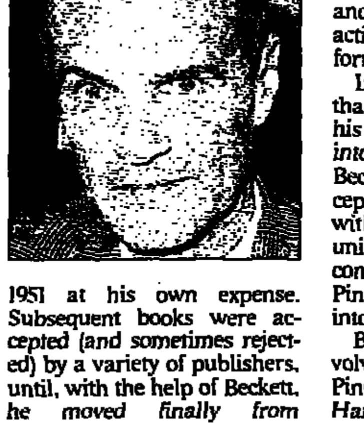
But Pinget himself was reticent, and had no need of the theoretical justifications sometimes used to disguise a lack of imagination or sympathy. His novels and plays were not hermetic displays of cleverness and obfuscation but, like those of his close friend Samuel Beckett, emotional meditations on the misery and comedy of our being born into a world ill-suited to finer feelings. Like Beckett's, Pinget's work is populated by voices — moving, amusing, disorientating — which circle round and round their experiences.

It was Beckett who recommended Pinget to his publisher at Editions de Minuit; Jérôme Lindon, after Pinget had written to him asking for help in finding translation work. That was the beginning of a long friendship between the two men, built around discussions of language and technique, though rarely of more personal matters. They were kindred spirits, although Pinget's work has less despair and suffering.

Robert Pinget was born in Geneva in 1919, the son of a colonel. At university he studied law, passing his final exams in 1944. However, he had little inclination for a profession. He had started writing poems at 16 and had become a fine cellist.

At the end of the war he left Switzerland for Paris, where he enrolled at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. When not painting, he travelled, gaining experience in a kibbutz in the new state of Israel, and working on the construction of a railway in Yugoslavia.

His first book, a volume of short stories, *Entre Fantoine et Agapa*, was published in 1951 at his own expense. Subsequent books were accepted (and sometimes rejected) by a variety of publishers, until, with the help of Beckett, he moved finally from Gallimard to Les Editions de Minuit. In 1959 he published his novel *Le Fiston*, which Beckett admired.



Pinget was then entering his most productive period. In 1960 he took French nationality, and two years later he won the Prix des Critiques for *L'inquisitoire*: 500 pages long, and consisting of a seemingly interminable juxtaposition of two monologues, it remains his best-known work. In 1965 he was awarded the Fémina for *Quelqu'un*.

Pinget's real inspiration — "my only guide as a writer" — was language itself, the sounds, rhythms and strangeness of words. "Words have a life independent of our reason. Playing with them reveals to us a foreign world that is nevertheless our world," he said. His work is austere, but never emptily formalist. For Pinget's linguistic probing was driven by a real desire to capture something of the world and to keep death at bay. "To maintain speech would be a guarantee of eternity," he said.

This interest soon manifested itself in the theatre. He wrote his first play, *Lettre morte*, about a demented old man, in 1959. A further 11 plays followed, most of them essentially monologues in which atmosphere, absurdity and words prevailed over action. Several were performed on BBC Radio 3.

In 1957 Beckett had agreed that Pinget should translate his radio play *All That Fall* into French. It is a sign of Beckett's esteem that he accepted the translation almost without change. And in 1960, uniquely, he compounded the compliment by translating Pinget's play *La manivelle* into English as *The Old Tune*.

Beckett now became involved with productions of Pinget's plays in Paris, taking Harold Pinter to see *La manivelle* in rehearsal on the first occasion they met. This introduction to directing was to prove important to Beckett, who later often directed his own pieces. In 1966 a Paris theatre staged the *Spectacle Beckett, Pinget, Ionesco*, which included Beckett's *Comédie* (*Play*) and Pinget's *L'hypothèse*.

Pinget was an extremely private man, speaking little of his life outside writing. Or, rather, as he put it in 1980: "I have absolutely nothing to say about my life, except that the whole of it has gone into my books and been transformed there." He was unmarried.

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 004236 of 1997 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF SIMS FOOD GROUP PLC - and - IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 26th day of August 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company by £10,838,000. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on the 22nd October 1997. ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of the Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same. Dated the 9th day of September 1997. TRAVERS SMITH BRAITHWAITE 10 Snow Hill London EC1A 2AL Ref: SAJ/DCC Tel: 0171 248 9133 Solicitors for the above-named Company

1. NATIONS FINANCIAL FUTURES LIMITED (Formerly known as Panmure Gordon Financial Futures Limited) Company Number 1643646 2. NATIONSBANK SECURITIES SERVICES LIMITED (Formerly known as NationsBank Panmure Securities Services Limited) Company Number 2190878 3. COMMONWEALTH SECURITIES LIMITED (ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION) Company Number 628805 NOTICE TO CREDITORS On 15th September 1997 the above named companies were placed in Member's Voluntary Liquidation and Colin Graham Bird of Price Waterhouse was appointed as liquidator by the shareholders. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 24 October 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. All known creditors have been or will be paid in full. Date 19th September 1997 C G Bird Liquidator

ON THIS DAY

September 24, 1846

The mid-19th century saw the great expansion of the railways and with it the dubious activities of speculators and share pushers. The Times missed no opportunity of denouncing them, in particular George Hudson, the Railway King (1800-71).

THE RAILWAY KING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—King Hudson begins now to feel that, though "placed on high", he is not altogether "above the storm's career." *The Times* of Saturday last contained a little paragraph, copied from a Hull paper, stating that Lord Worsley, on entering the Monarch's territories, quitted the 1st class carriage, and took a second-class ticket, and left his card with the station-keeper, desiring him to inform the directors that he should never travel by first class on their lines until *the present exorbitant fares were reduced*. The Hull paper added that several noblemen and gentlemen are reported to have made similar resolves as it regards the Midland lines.

Lord Worsley deserves well of the public for this admonition; but he would have deserved better had he in his place in the House of Commons raised his voice against that most scandalous of jobs by which the Monarch is entitled to exact these exorbitant fares from the passengers to the north, of which his Lordship so justly complains, when an appropriate opportunity was presented, on Mr. Ellice laying the report of the Committee on the subject before the House. But Lord Worsley is the only one of a host of assailants.

The Monarch finds that his easy victories in the House of Commons have not done all for him that he could have wished; that people will grumble even though fleeced by act of Parliament. He has not read much, but he has evidently read that part of our English history in which we are told in what way his predecessors drew tooth after tooth from the Jews in order to frighten them into compliance with demands for money. The papers published in all parts of the country are filled with communications from correspondents indignant at the system of torture resorted to on the King's lines, in order to drive passengers to the first class fares. In the *Chronicle* of Wednesday last, a Scarborough correspondent, who had proceeded from Scarborough to York, says, "It was an open carriage all the way to York. I need say no more as to its being an open carriage, yet in reality *it was not fit for the conveyance of beasts*. The sufferings therein I will not attempt to describe, *yet I must say that every possible torture has been resorted to*".

"Oh that mine enemy had written a book." The King has not written a book, but he has spoken a speech at York. The meeting on Monday last, at which that speech was delivered, was of a company called the "York and Newcastle," a new name for old lines, for the King announced, "that what was formerly known as the 'Great North of England' and the 'Newcastle and Darlington' lines, would in future be entitled the 'York and Newcastle' line".

The changes of the names of certain *famous* streets in Marylebone are not more frequent than the changes of the names of certain lines. Would that they emulated the Marylebone streets in changing their practices with their names!

But I must drop the King, and take leave of your readers for the present.

Cornhill, Sept 17. CATO

How last week's BBC row was saved from farce

Sir Christopher opens his scoring account

TO THE casual eye, last week's "rebellion" by BBC journalists may seem like a trivial manifestation which received too much attention by a media-obsessed media. After all, it is a truism that journalists who are specialists in the chronicling of change usually become resistant when confronted with it themselves. Certainly, the former BBC journalist Polly Toynbee, speaking at the Royal Television Society's Cambridge convention at the weekend, seemed unimpressed by the spat, even though the issue greatly enlivened the proceedings.

The reality is that what happens to the BBC news and current affairs machine, by far the largest pool of television news journalism in the UK and one of the largest in the world, is of importance to those who fund it — the licence payers and viewers.

If the news is going to become more homogenised, if the voice of editors is going to be muted and programmes become less individualistic as a result, then there is a considerable public interest.

RAYMOND SNODDY

Until the row broke out and received media attention, there was going to be a super commissioning editor with money extracted from all the programme budgets and responsible for commissioning features across all BBC radio and television. The aim was the apparently reasonable one of trying to avoid duplication and waste. The reality would almost certainly have been a massive degree of centralisation, uniformity of programming and the birth of a new bureaucracy. Four executive editors, aided by associate editors, would have had enormous centralising power. The autonomy of editors, who were given, in effect, ten days to apply for downgraded versions of their old jobs, would have been undermined.

For a while the row was going forward in a familiar BBC way. There had been "misunderstandings", obviously simultaneously arrived at by the 700 or so journalists involved. Then we were into an *Alice in Wonderland* world of defining words how you want to. Tony Hall, the chief executive of BBC News, announced gravely that if people didn't like being called associate editors, why, they could be called editors again — as if somehow that solved anything.

Two developments rescued the situation from farce. One was the intervention of Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman of the BBC governors who, like the other governors — whose job it is to represent the public — found out about the details of the plan from the newspapers. The underlying philosophy — preventing individual programmes from competing against each other for the same interviewees and items — was understood and is eminently sensible.

Sir Christopher's decision to halt the proceedings for further consultation and consideration at a governors' meeting in October was right. Sir Christopher, noted for his independence of mind and impatience with the folly of others, was an excellent choice as BBC Chairman. Until now, however, he has been a bit like a top-class, highly priced soccer striker who on transfer has unaccountably failed to score any goals for his new club. A cracking performance after the drought is all the more welcome.

The second important development came when a group of senior editors of flagship BBC programmes took upon themselves the responsibility of working out a compromise to get the BBC management off the hook on which they had impaled themselves. Although there is still a lot of huffing and puffing and protocol to be endured, plus worrying away at the meaning of words, the compromise option is now clear. It would be the downgrading of the feature commissioner to a co-ordinating role, and editors would remain editors — and not merely in name — but in the control of budgets and staff. Executive editors would have a useful role to play alongside editors, but not ostentatiously atop them, in order to avoid waste and unnecessary duplication. It has the makings of a sensible deal and should be embraced by the BBC governors next month.

SUCH agreement should, however, be the beginning of a new relationship between the BBC and its staff. There will be the inevitable temptation to put the events of last week down to a lack of adequate communication, just as the Conservative Party forever blamed poor communication rather than the inadequacy of the message for sleepwalking into electoral disaster.

It really is time that the BBC realises that its staff is its greatest asset — probably its only asset — apart from an institutional history and expectation in the public mind, and access to scarce airwaves.

The BBC has become notorious for never saying sorry, regarding its staff as something akin to an enemy to be subdued, and trying to shoehorn them into a narrow definition of the digital future.

Sir Christopher could score a second goal by realising that there are many more urgent issues to be dealt with at the BBC on how staff are treated than whether associate editors are called editors or not.

Under the influence

The reshaped Lynne Franks PR has a new blueprint, reports **Belinda Archer**

Should you find yourself buying the Spice Girls' next single, your decision to purchase will have been affected by an array of influences beyond the simple fact that you like its catchy tune.

Your choice may have been shaped by the recommendations of friends and family, the opinion of a television presenter, a club DJ or even a teacher (if school still applies). Alternatively, you could have heard that a psychologist claims Spice Girl music makes you happy, or that a boffin from the Royal College of Music believes the band produces high-quality songs.

The increasingly complex forces at work behind what makes a consumer buy a product or service is the central plank to the new-look Lynne Franks PR, the quintessentially 1980s public relations firm which was relaunched and rebranded as Life PR on Monday.

The agency, which is now marketing itself on a more robust, businesslike platform than the "Ab Fab" glitz of before, believes that old-style "opinion formers", such as prominent journalists or experts in the given field, have been superseded by a far more wide-ranging, less predictable and less easily identifiable brigade of individuals or organisations, dubbed the "Influencers".

Lynne Franks, top, and Samantha Royston

These vary from client to client, and need to be clearly identified for any company to craft an effective communications programme, the agency claims. In short, influencing the influencers is the new blueprint for effective PR and marketing.

Samantha Royston, the chief executive of the reshaped agency, explains: "There has been a massive shift in the past four to five years in the way consumers are influenced. If companies presume they know who those influencers are, and do not identify them correctly, they are in danger of missing one of the most powerful routes to communicating with their target audience."

Ms Royston cites the health sector as a prime example. Here, the traditional opinion formers used to be GPs and pharmacists, but official data now shows that people are visiting their doctors less frequently, and there is a detectable drive towards self-medication which has resulted directly from other influencing factors. These include healthfood stores, advice columns in newspapers and magazines, "experts" on GMTV, the Internet, sports centres and even personal fitness instructors.

To investigate who and what might be shaping the opinions of a target audience, Life has set up a unit called the "I", short for influence. The unit begins by compiling an exhaustive list of anyone or anything that might have an impact — known as the Influencer Tree. This is developed by means of an initial brainstorming session with the client to identify who the company thinks most influences its audience. In the case of Lynne Franks PR's longstanding client Vidal Sassoon, for example, three of these primary influencers might be a hairdresser, a fashion designer and a make-up artist. These groups are then quizzed over who influences them. Life then conducts a full vox pop with relevant consumers to ascertain what they think makes them buy a particular brand. Then the agency runs a trawl of the media to see what the relevant journalists are writing about and what they are being influenced by.

The final list of up to 50 Influencers are given scores on six criteria: the number of consumers they would be able to reach, their ability to influence other Influencers, how much it would cost the company to get them to endorse their product and how accessible they would be, whether they would be open to persuasion to help to influence the target market, their fit with the company's brand and their consumer appeal.

These scores are combined and each Influencer is given a ranking to form an Influencer Index. The agency finally draws up a marketing strategy based on targeting, say, the top-ten-scoring Influencers, taking into consideration the client company's marketing budget.

The I has just signed up its first client in the shape of the European Space Agency, a body which tackles governments that are no longer investing sufficiently in science and space research. Ms Royston says that before Life's involvement, the organisation spent much of its time focusing on supposedly influential science academics connected with the relevant Euro government ministers. However, a full influencer audit by Life could reveal that the ESA has been missing a trick.

SCOPE-TRANSWORLD

Magazines can have more influence on consumers than specialist opinion

"It's possible that Steven Spielberg will rank higher on the list of top-ten influencers than, say, the Professor of Physics at Imperial College, London," she says. The ESA could then invite Spielberg to sponsor one of its rockets or use one in his movies.

But is this process really new? Cynics might suggest that pinpointing target markets and assessing who they are influenced by is basic marketing practice. Bridget Brown, a tutor in PR at the leading Bournemouth & Poole College, voices typical suspicions when she says: "PR involves assessing who your different publics are. It is fundamental to talk about identifying your audience and then working out who influences them."

But Ms Royston ferociously denies that Life's new methodology amounts to little more than window-dressing or the elaborate repackaging of a fundamental marketing process by an agency that, after all, made its name in showbiz and fashion PR. "Most companies understand who their audience is, but little time is spent on the audiences who influence their audience. We are taking a crucial step back," she retaliates.

Tilly Sampson, the Life director who runs the I, makes another key point. "This process acts as a safety net and provides objective confirmation on whether it is worth spending time and money pursuing a certain route. Given that a lot of marketing is not science, it's nice to have a tried and tested formula to rely on for once."

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Peter Foster asks if editors do enough to ensure foreign correspondents are prepared to face the worst

How to survive a war zone

ROBIN MAYES

Shock tactics: journalists on the survival course are ambushed, blindfolded and marched away to the sound of gunshots and violent threats

The Land Rover braked hard and came nose to nose with a military truck that filled the width of the narrow country track. Even before our vehicle had stopped, men wearing combat *jackets* and balaclavas were thumping on the windows, screaming hysterically: "Get out of the truck! Out! Out! Get the f*** out."

The muzzle of an AK47 assault rifle came through the window and we were manhandled face-down on to a grass verge: "Get the f*** down," yelled a voice very close behind me. Someone was firing rounds into the trees. *Then everything went black.*

"Up! Move! Go!", and we were marching in a stumbling crocodile, twisting right and left before being thrust, spread-eagled, to the ground again. *The drawstring of a* black hood was tight around my neck and there was now complete silence as we lay waiting for the unknown.

Mercifully, the end, when it came, was not too grisly: 20 minutes after the ambush began, both attackers and victims were clutching mugs of tea and warming themselves around the fireplace of a 13th-century manor house in darkest Somerset. Here Paul Rees, a former Royal Marine Commando, began addressing a group of shaky-looking BBC journalists about the experience. Everyone had their worst moment: the feeling of claustrophobia as the hood was put over their head, the disorientating march, the long wait face-down in wet grass wondering what would *happen next.*

Among the group were BBC correspondents Jeremy Vine, Fergus Walsh, Mike Baker, and a cameraman and producer from the BBC Delhi bureau who had flown to England especially for the course. Vine starts work as Southern Africa correspondent in October and will be living in Johannesburg, where "carjackings" have become increasingly common. Baker, a former foreign affairs journalist, reinforces the Moscow bureau.

The course is run by Centurion Risk Assessment Services, a company set up and staffed by former Royal Marines to teach civilians how to cope with hostile environments. This includes learning how to placate drunken soldiers at checkpoints, distinguishing between mortar and shellfire, and even how to check if the safety catch of an AK47 is on or off.

Journalists are shown how easily high-velocity rifle rounds penetrate car doors and brick walls: any movie-style fantasies about taking cover behind such flimsy defences are quickly removed. A *plastic water drum is used to* demonstrate what happens when a bullet passes through the human body. Journalists also learn how to patch up gunshot and shrapnel wounds until professional help arrives.

While the broadcasting community has long recognised the value of such training, newspaper editors have been reluctant to follow, despite the evident dangers of reporting from areas of conflict. According to the International Federation of Journalists in Brussels, more than 200 journalists have been killed since 1991 while operating in war zones. The largest number of deaths was in former Yugoslavia, where 77 journalists have died since 1991, followed by Algeria, with 70 deaths since 1993, Rwanda with 48 and the remainder in Chechnya.

However, there are some signs that newspapers may be waking up to their responsibilities and catching up with the BBC, ITN and Reuters who have traditionally led the way in safety training. Later this month, the London Press Club will host a seminar organised by the Freedom Forum in conjunction with the NUJ and BBC Safety to "examine why the newspaper industry has dragged its heels over the issue of training and protecting journalists".

Among the speakers are Peter Preston, former Editor of *The Guardian*, Quentin Peel, foreign editor on the *Financial Times*, Richard Sambrook, head of BBC newsgathering and Robert Fox, *The Daily Telegraph's* long-serving foreign correspondent. Peel admits that safety training for *FT* correspondents is non-existent. His newspaper is no exception: *all the national* newspapers confirmed that they did not give specific training for war zones. For most, safety protection is limited to a few ill-fitting flak-jackets, *although the Telegraph* did buy an armoured Land Rover for Bosnia.

Mr Peel, whose postings have included South Africa and Moscow, agrees that newspapers have been slack on safety training: "There has been a degree of gentlemanly amateurism in the way that people have covered war zones in the past and this is something that needs to be looked at."

Many foreign editors argue, however, that training courses are unnecessary because only experienced correspondents are sent into dangerous situations. Graham Paterson, foreign editor of *The Times*, says: "In war zones or dangerous areas we use experienced correspondents. In recent conflicts in Africa or the Balkans we have tended to use people with military training and always emphasise that personal safety is more important than the story."

Paterson has two ex-servicemen as part of his foreign team. Sam Kiley, Africa correspondent, is a former Gurkha officer, and Anthony Loyd, who has reported from Albania and Bosnia, served *with The Royal Green Jackets.* Loyd recently made headlines of his own when he drove the *Times* Volvo on a special forces rescue mission to save 22 children from an orphanage in Albania. Tom McGhie, foreign editor of *The Express*, also said training was unnecessary because inexperienced journalists were not sent to war zones.

> 'One should try to cover a story, not become the story'

Experienced reporters say that safety depends most on reacting appropriately to different types of dangerous situation. Andrew Haughton, executive producer at Sky News, formerly a field producer for the Australian Network 9, covering Nicaragua, El Salvador and Beirut, says: "Every conflict is different, but one should try to cover a story, not become it. Displaying overt guerrilla training is probably not the safest way to behave. I always believed in wearing a red checked shirt so that it was clear I was not armed. I think Martin Bell wore his white suit for the same reason."

However, in widespread and drawn-out conflicts such as Bosnia and parts of Africa, the need for relief reporters drew in less experienced *hands. For many, it was their* first real war, although some had covered Northern Ireland. One correspondent with 20 years on Fleet Street was sent to Bosnia by his foreign desk and learnt the hard way. He arrived in the Croatian port of Split and hired the only car available — a gleaming Audi 80 worth £13,000.

Predictably enough, he was held up while driving in central Bosnia by a bored, gun-toting soldier who, not satisfied with two packets of cigarettes, returned with friends in the middle of the night and stole the car. Like many *others, the reporter fell* on the mercies of the BBC and borrowed a flak jacket from Kate Adie: The next time he covered Bosnia, he hired a Lada Niva like everyone else.

Those correspondents who have attended training courses have found them valuable and, at times, life-saving. Robert Moore, diplomatic editor at ITN who has reported from Bosnia and the Middle East, says: "Lots of people mock these courses but most journalists would argue that the first-aid elements have saved lives in the past. When David *Chater was shot in the stomach* in Vukovar, those with him said their first-aid training had saved his life."

Rees, who served in the Falklands and in Cambodia and now runs Centurion safety courses full-time, is in no doubt about the dangers faced by war correspondents. "I wouldn't do what journalists do," he says, "at least when you are part of the military you have some form of intelligence and knowledge about the situation on the battlefield. Journalists are often left in the dark. Some training is better than none at all."

Tales of journalistic derring-do should not soften the fact that journalists, like the BBC's John Schofield in Bosnia, do get killed on the job. As Jeremy Vine heads for South Africa, he is grateful that his bosses *have seen fit to train him.* For some editors, health and safety still conjures up ideas of goggles and hard hats. But the law is clear. Under the 1974 Act, a newspaper editor has as *much duty to safeguard his* employees as a factory owner.

Managing the mood of the nation

Raymond Snoddy hears predictions for the future

The top executives of the British television industry could be forgiven for reaching for the tranquillisers this week after their trip to the biennial Royal Television Society convention in Cambridge.

They were assaulted first by warnings that society has changed *so much in* recent years that the old notion of an audience waiting to watch whatever broadcasters chose to offer has gone for ever. The audience is working longer hours, *shopping at all sorts of strange times* and increasingly seeking entertainment that suits its mood of the moment wherever such entertainment *can be found. Martin Hayward* of BBH Futures, part of the BBH advertising and marketing group, said that the old classifications and stereotypes no longer worked. It was unclear what the weekend was any more, never mind what constituted a *household* or a housewife. Nearly 60 per cent of employees did some work on a Saturday, and 40 per cent did some work on a Sunday. Indeed, free time had decreased by 14 per cent for women working *full-time, and* by 5 per cent for men working full-time. No less than 62 per cent of all adults believed there was never enough time to get things done.

> 'It is unclear what the weekend is any more'

With increased *pressure* on time, there were fewer common events both in families and across society — although the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was an obvious exception.

Some 60 per cent of people thought *that* "the family eats together less often than it used to", compared with 50 per cent in 1991.

People were also no longer acting in accordance with their age or class, and seemed to want to be different things at different times.

As a result, Mr Hayward said, broadcasters would have to transform themselves from "schedule managers to mood managers". They would also have to *move quickly from* "product focus to customer focus" as other industries have had to do.

Broadcasters had hardly had time to absorb their new role as mood managers of the nation when they were battered by the latest wave of new technology. Craig Mundie, a senior *vice-president of Microsoft*, the ambitious media and software group, was about to launch a second-generation box which can handle the Internet on the television set.

The *box, to be launched* in America *next month* by Microsoft's new acquisition Web TV, will sell for $300. It is aimed at the 60 per cent or so of the *American population who* do not have home computers. The UK will not be far behind. In fact, British Interactive Broadcasting plans to launch similar things in the UK next summer. BiB, which also demonstrated at Cambridge, is a consortium *made up* of BT, BSkyB (a group in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake), Matsushita and Midland Bank. The planned BiB boxes, which will go on sale at a subsidised price of £199, will be *able to handle the* Internet while enabling viewers to navigate what is in effect a shopping mall on the television screen. By clicking on a slightly expanded channel selector, *viewers* will be able to buy a CD or pay a credit-card bill by transferring from their bank accounts — all on screen.

For good measure, the British electronics company Snell & Wilcox demonstrated a sophisticated digital "black box" which can project a perfect digital picture of a movie on a 40ft screen. Naturally it can also project the Internet.

Broadcasters can see all too clearly that in future *they will not only have to* compete with each other for ratings in a climate of wayward viewing habits, but also to compete with an ever-increasing range of *activity on the small screen.*

Unease hardens into a new code

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

A PERIOD of profound soul-searching by editors of Britain's national newspapers will end tomorrow when the Press Complaints Commission announces that its journalists' code of practice has been radically overhauled. There will be significant amendments to the clauses dealing with privacy, harassment, intrusion into grief or shock, interviewing and photographing children, and the definition of "public interest".

So within four weeks of her death in Paris, the late Diana, Princess of Wales, has won a posthumous victory that she would never have achieved while she was alive. The amended code, drawn up by a panel of national and regional editors, will almost certainly prohibit the publication of pictures of Princes William and Harry without their consent until they are 21 (an injunction *which has been* observed for the past two years without being specified in the code).

There were many paradoxes in the life of the Princess, not least of which was her love-hate relationship with newspapers and magazines. She courted and lunched with *editors — and when it* helped the causes she cherished, she courted the cameras too. One paper she read was the *Daily Mail*. She rang Richard Kay, its royal reporter and also a friend, only five hours before the crash in Paris and spoke to him for 20 minutes. She often phoned Paul Dacre, Editor of the *Daily Mail*, at home or in the office. "The great majority of the stories *we wrote about the Princess* she gave us herself," he said in *The Guardian* last week.

Yet many of the editors she courted could not resist temptation when offered pictures snatched by the paparazzi who hunted her around the world and who eventually hunted her to Paris and her death. That is why the soul-searching has almost certainly been tinged with a sense of guilt, why all the tabloids have announced that they will certainly not disturb the two Princes, and why more compassion is being urged for — and already shown to — the Prince of Wales.

Celebrity stalking had turned into a lucrative game with virtual victims who were *expected to show no pain*, *The Guardian* declared. Most sentient journalists had accepted that the culture of intrusion had spread too far, too fast. "There is now a guilty acknowledgement that we had collectively edged beyond reasonable bounds."

As *The Mirror* acknowledged in an editorial after the funeral oration by Earl Spencer, newspapers and magazines, *television and radio* shared an "almost obsessive" fascination with the Princess, as did readers, viewers and listeners: "Earl Spencer said she was hunted and in the end *he was right." According to The Sun*, the earl's attack on the press would force every editor and every journalist to reflect deeply on their conduct: "*The Sun* has no intention of carrying photographs *which invade the privacy of* Princes William and Harry."

Among the tabloids, the most prominent exponent of a tighter code of practice has been Richard Addis, Editor of *The Express*. Among his proposals are that no one under 18 should be subject to any form of invasive press coverage unless with the consent of a guardian or undeniably in the public interest, and that *pictures should not be taken* of people when they are in private or when they might reasonably believe themselves to be unobserved, unless in the public interest.

Encouraged by Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the PCC, who has consulted every national editor, editors have acted with speed against a background of rising clamour outside the newspaper *industry for a new law of* privacy. Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, is so far a lonely voice pointing out from the wilderness that most editors remain in "blissful *ignorance*" that we are effectively on the verge of having a privacy law anyway under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the 1997 Harassment Act.

"*By the time a few irritable* and illiberal judges have begun to play around with piecemeal bits of legislation, it seems quite probable that the very journalists currently inveighing against a privacy law will be begging for one — a sensible, considered, balanced one," he argued last week in *The Daily Telegraph*. Meanwhile, the case for self-regulation will be given a stiff *shot in the arm tomorrow*.

Another paradox about the 24 days since the Princess's death is that even as newspapers were being denounced, so readers were flocking to buy them, with the broadsheets in particular winning significant sales increases. On Monday, September 1, an estimated 3.7 million extra national newspapers were bought, and an extra 2.8 *million on the Sunday* after the funeral. As the week developed the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday*, *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Guardian* achieved *new sales records as they* captured the mood of the nation and their readers.

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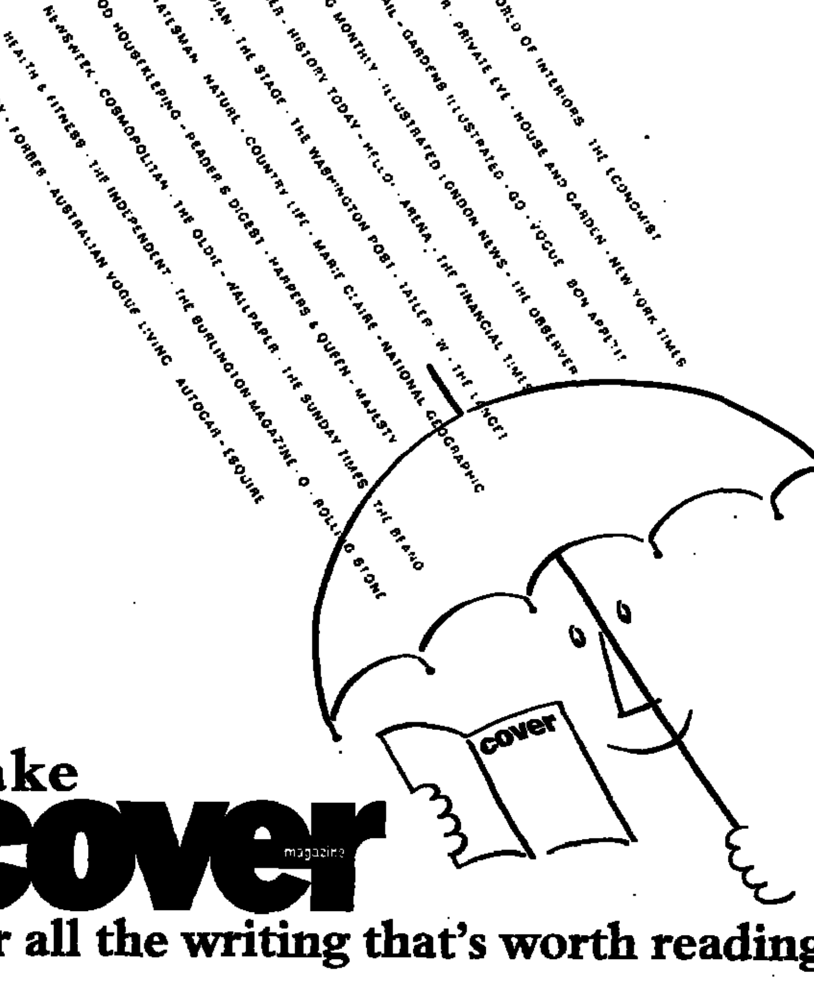
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THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1997

NEWS

Murder charge nurse to be flogged

■ A British nurse was sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years in jail by a Saudi court for being an accessory to the murder of a colleague. This raised the prospect that her friend had been convicted of murder, which carries a mandatory death penalty.

The sentence on Lucille McLauchlan was immediately condemned by her family, the Government and human rights groups. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that he was deeply disturbed at the sentence, which was "wholly unacceptable in a modern world"........................**Pages 1, 2, 3**

Trimble refuses Adam's hand

■ *Ulster Unionist Party leaders made history by sitting at the same conference table as Sinn Fein for the first time but they emphatically rejected what Gerry Adams called his "hand of friendship"*...**Page 1**

Tory women lists

Local Tory parties could be forced for the first time to put women on *their shortlists when choosing parliamentary candidates under radical plans being considered by William Hague. There will not be all-women lists* .... ***Page 1***

Stowaway's escape

A stowaway who leapt overboard after being caught on a banana boat from the Bahamas was found hiding on a tiny island in the Bristol Channel .... **Page 5**

Genetic testing

Companies which offer genetic tests directly to the public could be blacklisted if they fail to follow proper procedures .... **Page 6**

Dyslexia damages

An young woman who left school with a reading age of seven won damages of more than £45,000 from the local authority that failed to diagnose that she had dyslexia.............................**Page 7**

Pay to read

Libraries must consider charges to pay for the services that will meet the needs of the next century. The number of books borrowed has fallen by 19 per cent in the past ten years ....**Page 8**

Cabinet pay row

The Cabinet pay dispute burst into the open as two senior ministers publicly countered suggestions that they had agreed to give up a £16,500 increase....... **Page 9**

Ashdown's risk

Paddy Ashdown will today urge *his party not to tie his hands over further links with Labour as he warns that the Liberal Democrats will have to take risks*..... ***Page 10***

Wings of peace

A falcon is doing more to bring Israelis and Palestinians together than any diplomatic negotiators. Environmentalists from both sides have set up a new joint body to protect wildlife .... **Page 11**

Beef ban setback

The drive to persuade Europe to lift its beef ban suffered a setback when the European Commission reported the illegal presence of British beef in Germany **Page 12**

Cook angers US

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, got into an ugly spat with a right-wing American senator after insisting that Washington should pay its UN debt .. **Page 14**

Revenge on Clinton

President Clinton suffered the first instalment in the revenge of Harold Ickes, the sacked senior aide whose copious notes may hold the key to irregular White House fundraising .... **Page 15**

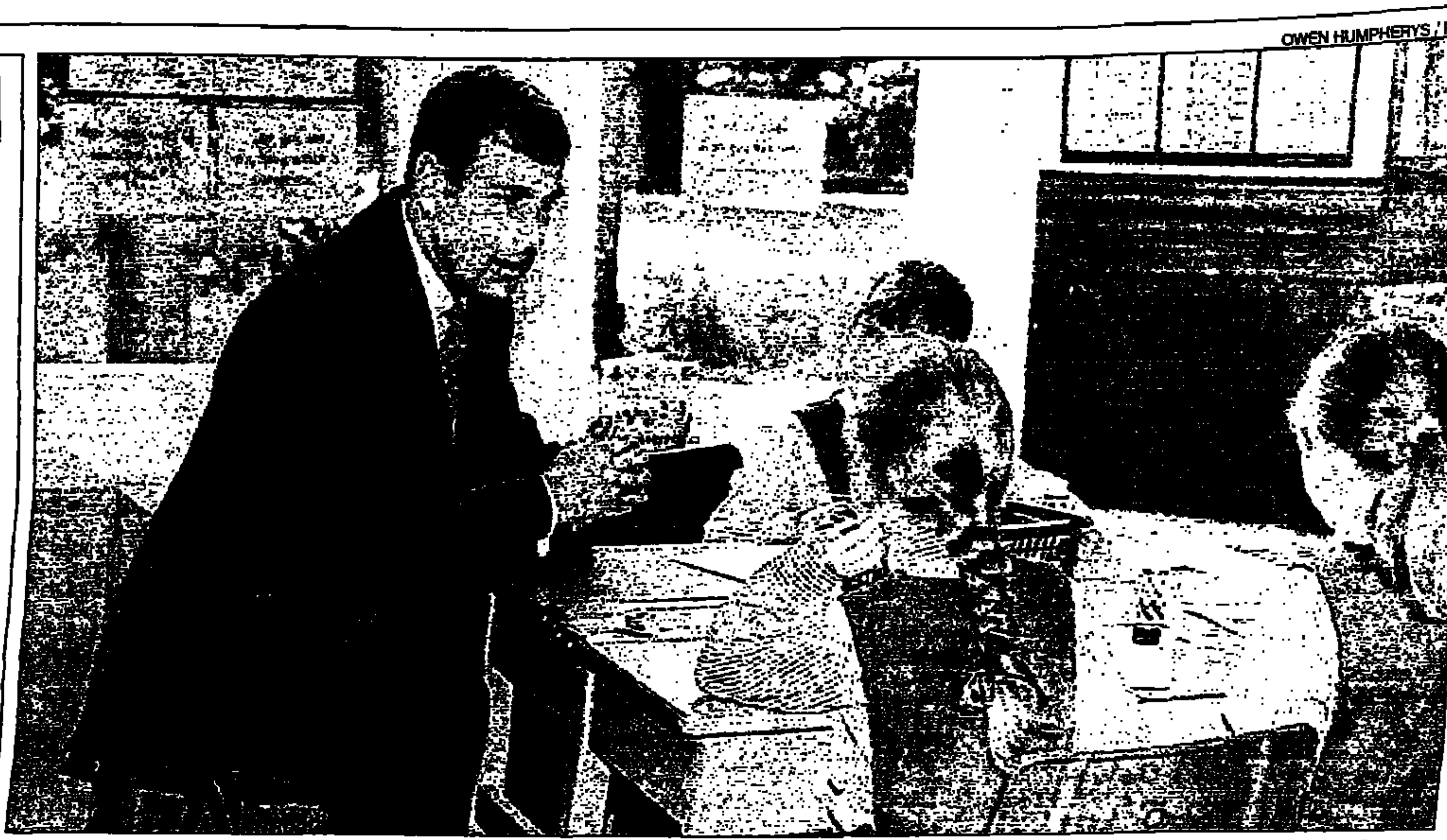
Jungle firefighters

The haze overhanging much of South-East Asia reached new danger levels as 2,000 Malaysian firemen prepared to leave for Indonesia to help tackle the jungle fires.................................**Page 15**

The fastest man on earth

■ Squadron Leader Andy Green, who has flown Phantoms for the last six years, was preparing in Nevada for an assault on the world land speed record in *Thrust*, an 850 mph car powered by Rolls-Royce Spey jet engines. But after a run of 690 mph the car developed computer problems and the attempt on the offical record was once again postponed........................ **Page 13**

OWEN HUMPHREYS / PA



The Duke of York talking to children at the Westfield Independent School during a visit to Newcastle upon Tyne yesterday

BUSINESS

London Underground: Ministers have been told to act immediately on a report by Price Waterhouse that will call for the London Underground to be broken into three or four sections........................***Page 27***

Telecom: Don Cruickshank, the regulator that British Telecom loves to hate, said he would not seek a second term.............***Page 27***

Virgin: Richard Branson, who has always missed out on the battle to win a major television licence, has decided to try to establish a significant presence in international programme production ....***Page 27***

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 48.2 to 5027.5. Sterling rose from 100.8 to 101.4 after a rise from $1.6031 to $1.6127 and from DM2.8750 to DM2.8940 .... **Page 30**

SPORT

Golf: Miguel Angel Martin has ended his dispute with Europe's Ryder Cup committee over his exclusion from the team to meet the United States ....**Page 52**

Rugby union: Pontypridd will host the Heineken Cup game against Brive at Sardis Road on Saturday knowing that their every action will be under the microscope after the brawl two weeks ago ....**Page 52**

Tennis: Greg Rusedski, the Great Britain No 1, beat Todd Woodbridge, of Australia, in the first round of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup in Munich.................. **Page 46**

Football: Five years ago, Shay Given could be found in Co Donegal, helping out in the family market gardening business. Now he is in goal for Newcastle .... **Page 49**

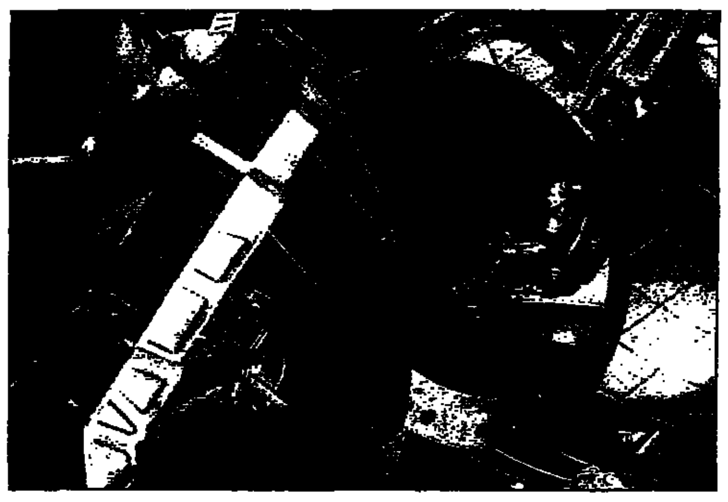
ARTS

Father figure: The Canadian film director Atom Egoyan says had he known he was going to have a child, he might never have embarked upon his new film, *The Sweet Hereafter*.................**Page 18**

Electric Zoe: Benedict Nightingale is riveted by Zoe Wanamaker's hauntingly contemporary performance in *Electra* ....**Page 18**

Rising star: By day 23-year-old Kara Miller works in advertising; but in her own time she writes plays, stages them through her own company, and sometimes acts as well...................................**Page 18**

Sure shot: Don McCullin has taken intrusive photographs in the world's war zones — but a new exhibition confirms that his can be justified...................................**Page 19**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**
Geoff Brown checks out the special effects of Robert Zemeckis's sci-fi spectacular, *Contact*

■ **BOOKS**
Michael Portillo on the Tory party, Malcolm Bradbury on Kurt Vonnegut's last work

FEATURES

Split decision: The audience, faced with an invitation to be sexy, split into those who bolted and those who tried their best. John Lloyd at a holistic festival.................... **Page 17**

Nigella Lawson: On shameless self-publicity, Labour's pay poser, the age of enjoyment and the BBC's *blunder*.................................**Page 17**

Embroidery theme: Try delicate decoration for a look that is sweet and sharp...............................**Page 16**

MEDIA

No Franks: Is it really the end of the Ab Fab era for Lynne Franks PR? asks Belinda Archer.......... **Page 24**

Code of honour: How newspaper editors have agreed a new code of practice...............................**Page 25**

HOMES

Swinging place: The Ryder Cup moves buyers to Spain ..... **Page 43**

THE PAPERS

The Nobel Peace Prize has always been controversial. In 1979 it was awarded to Mother Teresa; now the Labour Government has nominated Diana, Princess of Wales. But with all due respect to the late princess, her candidature is a step too far. She ran no real risks and made no real sacrifices: she cannot be compared to Arafat, Mandela or Kissinger, let alone Mother Teresa. It would be better not to award the prize at all — *La Repubblica*, Rome

RADIO & TV

Preview: Robbie Coltrane leads an assault on Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Ebb-Tide* (ITV, 9pm). **Review:** John Diamond on the rebirth of the IRA............................ **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

The unreformed UN

Britain has a reputation to live up to as a serious and knowledgeable operator in this floundering set of institutions. Unless the UN modernises, Mr Cook rightly said, it "*will lose its legitimacy* and its effectiveness"......................**Page 21**

The gene theme

Faulty genes have acquired the character of Blind Pugh's Black Spot: not only do they foretell a death, but they do so with a terrible inevitability.........................**Page 21**

Doves and hawks

At a time when political tensions between Israelis and Palestinians are at their worst, a small but significant attempt to overcome mistrust and hatred is being made by ornithologists................**Page 21**

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

We take cream with our scones, *Jerusalem* with our Proms and Liberals with our politics. They are *nanny's comfy toy. In September they get a hug*.................. **Page 20**

MICHAEL GOVE

For a Conservative to believe in classlessness is like a panther living on vegetation — so contrary to nature that it will lead to extinction..................................**Page 20**

ALAN COREN

The Mint wants to get to the bottom of my sofa, because it wants to get to the bottom of a mystery involving what might be lying on the bottom of my sofa .... **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

Labour wants the Lib Dems to behave like loyal Government backbenchers and restrain their criticisms, while the Lib Dems want to retain all the freedoms of opposition. Both are wrong..........**Page 10**

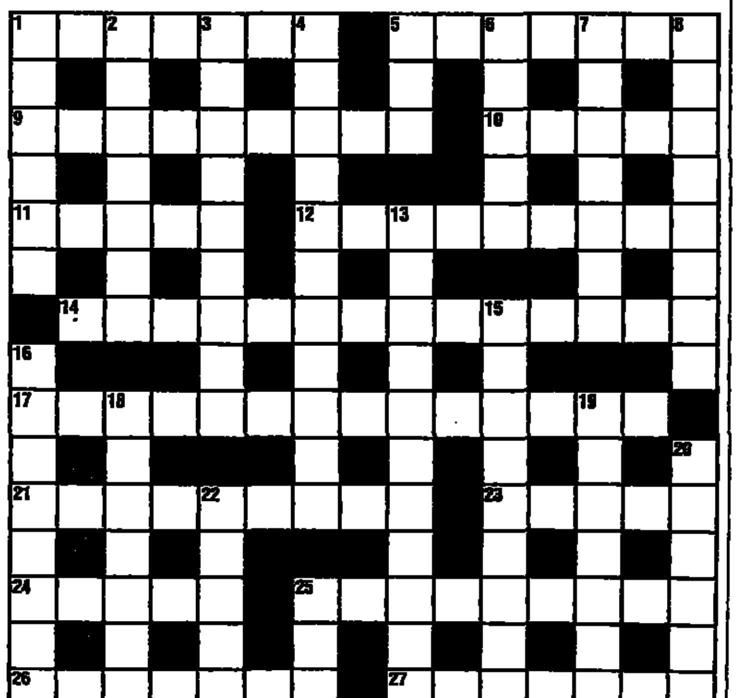
OBITUARIES

Diana Duchess of Newcastle, jockey; **David Matthews**, plastic surgeon; **Paul Newman**, architect; **Robert Pinget**, French novelist and playwright........................ **Page 23**

LETTERS

Rank-and-file and Tory choice; council "gerrymandering"; London walls .... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,593



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 37% of the competitors in the 1997 Times Crossword Championship.

ACROSS
1 Greek character holds a lively dance (7).
5 What constituencies have to charge? (7).
9 Averages close to number initially produced? Not at all! (2,2,5).
10 Street song that can lift one a little (5).
11 Man installed after a vote, in principle (5).
12 One's dimes converted into capital in US (3,6).
14 Alloy in yacht used by Bond's superiors (9,5).
17 Where a key is being auctioned (5,3,6).
21 Publication of novel, perhaps, not hard to arrange (9).
23 I see you are, so to speak, pinching North's contract (5).
24 Improvise telephone with no end of invention (3,2).
25 *Continental artefacts found in steamer I can authenticate* (9).
26 Herb's son is intermediary in negotiations (7).
27 Gratification as composer finishes off Schubert symphony (7).

DOWN
1 It's used in Tripoli by a native (6).
2 Like a less attractive dog, one denying access to others? (7).
3 Parent entering reform school (4,5).
4 Go after the rats? A bar member's put fellows inside (7,4).
5 Characters following every part of her conditions (3).
6 Italian fare supplement produces irritation, nothing more (5).
7 Not for profit, in a way (7).
8 Measure introduced by firm to last in business? (4,4).
13 Struck before, splitting layers into fragments (11).
15 Infantry officer, for example, encountered carrying second flag (9).
16 Gentleman on horse who's rewarded with silver? (6-2).
18 Old woman's encouragement to take a chance (7).
19 Free-lance vet wasting little time in isolated country area (7).
20 Playwright boosted by uplifting atmosphere in house (6).
22 Like a future monarch, perhaps – one instructed soundly (5).
25 Fourth of March issue – vast number run off (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,592

```
COVERUP CLASPED
O I O R H D E I
LODESTONE JEWEL
L E E T A U E A
ALLAH EXPEDIENT
R I I C   G   O
  CAPITALLETTER
U E   O A   H Y
NATURERESERVE
I   E   T I S M
VIEWPOINT SHAKE
E R L N H I U T
ROUTE EDINBURGH
S P T R N L U O
ENTREAT GUESSED
```

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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Moon sets 3.19 pm	Moon rises -

New moon October 1
London 6.54 pm to 6.51 am
Bristol 7.04 pm to 7.01 am
Edinburgh 7.07 pm to 7.04 am
Manchester 7.03 pm to 7.00 am
Penzance 7.16 pm to 7.13 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
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FORECAST

☐ **General:** Fog should largely disperse by mid-morning and then all places will be mostly dry, warm and sunny. Areas to the east of the Pennines may be cloudier but should also have some sunshine later.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lakes, Cent N England:** early fog clearing, then dry and sunny. Winds light easterly. Warm. Max 23C (73F).

☐ **East Anglia, E England, NE England:** cloudy at times, bright or sunny periods developing. Winds light easterly. Warm. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, NE Scotland, Moray Firth, Argyll:** fog and frost at first, then dry and sunny. Winds easterly. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **Aberdeen coast:** Cloudy, becoming bright or sunny inland. Wind light southeast. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **NW Scotland, Northern Ireland:** dry, sunny periods, clouding over in west later. Winds light southeast. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** sunny periods. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** dry with sunny periods, the sunshine hazy in the West. Winds moderate southeasterly. Warm. Max 20C (68F).

☐ ***Outlook:*** cloud and patchy rain in northern Scotland, elsewhere staying settled and dry.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

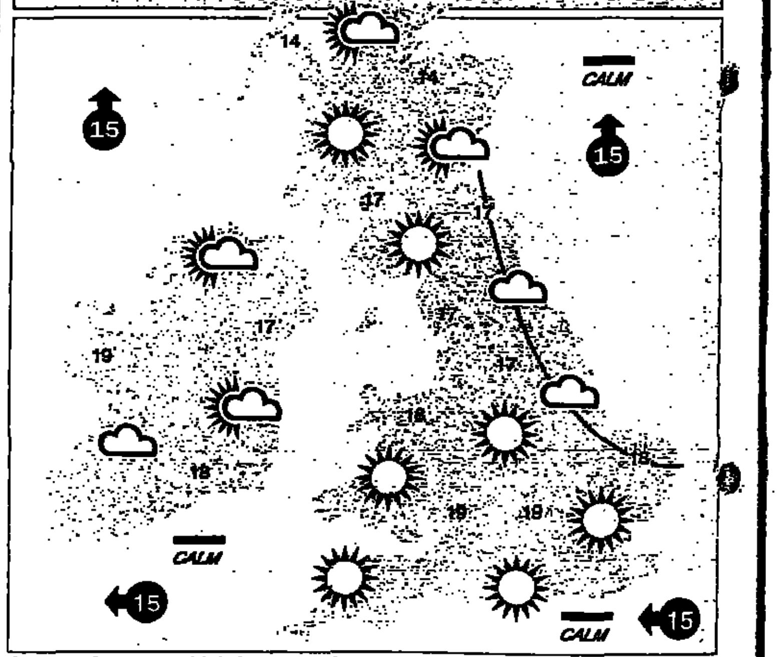
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Anglesey	10.9	-	19	66	s	Jersey	10.0	-	22	72	s
Aspatria	9.5	-	18	64	s	Kinloss	10.3	-	18	64	s
Aviemore	7.0	-	21	70	s	Leeds	2.3	-	16	61	b
Belfast	9.7	-	17	63	s	Lerwick	1.7	0.01	14	57	b
Birmingham	10.5	-	17	63	s	Leuchars	7.9	-	18	64	s
Bognor R	10.3	-	22	72	s	Littlehmptn	9.2	-	21	70	s
Bournem'th	8.0	-	21	70	s	London	10.3	-	21	70	s
Bristol	6.8	-	20	68	s	Lowestoft	6.1	-	18	64	s
Buxton	2.6	-	13	55	fg	Manchester	6.5	-	16	61	s
Cardiff	6.8	-	18	64	s	Margate	10.2	-	19	66	s
Clacton	10.1	-	16	61	s	Minehead	5.6	-	17	63	b
Colwyn Bay	9.9	-	18	64	s	Morecambe	6.8	-	16	61	s
Cromer	3.7	-	15	59	b	Newcastle	9.3	-	17	63	b
Dunbar	7.4	-	14	57	s	Norwich	6.1	-	17	63	s
Eastbourne	10.4	-	19	66	s	Oxford	9.3	-	19	66	c
Edinburgh	8.0	-	17	63	s	Poole	9.2	-	21	70	s
Eskdalemuir	9.0	-	17	63	s	Ross-o-wye	8.1	-	18	64	s
Exmouth	9.7	-	19	66	s	Salcombe	8.6	-	18	64	s
Falmouth	7.5	-	17	63	s	Sauntn Snd	10.6	-	21	70	s
Fishguard	10.3	-	20	68	s	Scarboro'	10.0	-	14	57	s
Folkestone	11.0	-	19	66	s	Shrewsbury	7.8	-	17	63	fg
Glasgow	7.7	-	19	66	s	Skegness	3.0	-	16	61	c
Guernsey	8.9	-	21	70	s	Southend	8.4	-	18	64	b
Hastings	10.3	-	20	68	s	Southsea	10.0	-	22	72	s
Hayling I.	10.0	-	21	70	s	Stornoway	8.8	-	16	61	s
Herne Bay	9.9	-	18	64	s	Swanage	9.7	-	19	66	s
Hove	5.6	-	22	72	s	Teignmouth	8.2	-	19	66	s
Hunstanton	9.8	-	17	63	s	Tenby	9.9	-	17	63	s
Isle-of-man	10.0	-	16	61	s	Torquay	8.5	-	19	66	s
Isle-of-wight	10.0	-	20	68	s	Weymouth	9.5	-	19	66	s

ABROAD

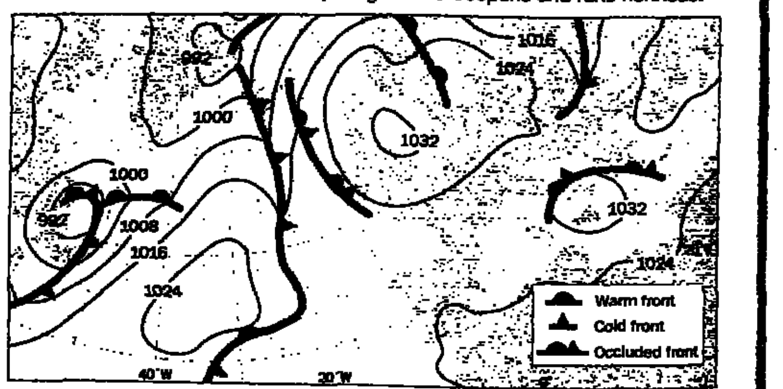
Ajaccio	25	77	f	C'phagn	14	57	c	Malaga	26	79	f	S Paulo	18	64	c
Akrotiri	27	81	s	Dublin	17	63	s	Malta	23	73	s	Salzburg	17	63	s
Alex'dria	27	81	s	Dubrovnik	22	72	s	Melb'rne	14	57	c	Santiago	19	66	f
Algiers	27	81	f	Faro	27	81	s	Mexico C	23	73	f	Seoul	25	77	s
Amst'dm	17	63	s	Florence	28	82	f	Miami	31	88	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Athens	24	75	s	Frankfurt	19	66	s	Milan	25	77	s	St'kholm	13	55	s
B Aires	20	68	f	Funchal	24	75	f	Montreal	17	63	s	Strasb'rg	19	66	s
Bahrain	35	95	s	Geneva	19	66	f	Moscow	9	48	r	Sydney	16	61	c
Bangkok	28	82	c	Gibraltar	25	77	s	Munich	17	63	s	Tangier	29	84	s
Barbados	30	86	f	Helsinki	11	52	s	N Delhi	33	91	s	Tel Aviv	28	82	f
Barcelona	25	77	s	Hong K	25	77	c	N York	19	66	s	Tenerife	27	81	f
Beirut	26	79	f	Innsbrck	16	61	s	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tokyo	25	77	c
Belgrade	20	68	s	Istanbul	19	66	f	Naples	27	81	c	Toronto	18	64	f
Berlin	15	59	s	Jeddah	35	95	s	Nice	24	75	s	Tunis	25	77	f
Bermuda	27	81	f	Jo'burg	25	77	s	Oslo	15	59	f	Valencia	26	79	f
Biarritz	22	72	f	Karachi	X			Paris	21	70	s	Vanc'ver	19	66	s
Borde'x	23	73	s	L Angels	24	75	s	Peking	24	75	s	Venice	22	72	s
Brussels	19	66	s	L Palmas	26	79	c	Perth	20	68	f	Vienna	17	63	s
Budapst	19	66	s	Le Tquet	21	70	s	Prague	16	61	s	Warsaw	13	55	c
Cairo	30	86	s	Lisbon	23	73	s	Reykjavik	12	54	c	Wash'ton	X		
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Locarno	21	70	f	Rhodes	25	77	s	Wel'ngton	13	55	X
Ch'church	14	57	X	Luxembg	18	64	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Zurich	16	61	s
Chicago	17	63	f	Luxor	40	104	s	Riyadh	39	102	s				
Cologne	20	68	s	Madrid	25	77	s	Rome	26	79	f				
Corfu	26	79	s	Majorca	27	81	s	S Fr'isco	19	66	s				

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes from noon: high A slow moving while High C moves northeast to absorb it. Lows M and N move northeast, filling Low C deepens and runs northeast



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	07.55	6.2	20.24	6.3	Leith	09.20	4.7	21.48	4.6
Aberdeen	08.08	3.6	20.38	3.6	Liverpool	05.24	7.8	17.58	7.8
Avonmouth	00.57	10.6	13.17	10.2	Lowestoft	03.45	2.3	16.36	2.3
Belfast	05.45	3.1	18.07	3.1	Margate	06.03	4.1	18.37	4.2
Cardiff	00.43	9.9	13.03	9.6	Milford Haven	00.11	5.6	12.41	5.4
Devonport	-	-	12.04	4.6	Newquay	11.41	5.5	-	-
Dover	05.10	5.7	17.45	5.5	Oban	11.52	2.9	-	-
Dublin (N Wall)	06.17	3.6	18.50	3.7	Penzance	11.08	4.5	23.48	4.3
Falmouth	11.35	4.4	-	-	Portland	00.20	1.5	12.42	1.5
Greenock	06.35	3.1	18.42	3.2	Portsmouth	06.02	4.0	18.26	4.0
Harwich	05.48	3.5	18.17	3.5	Shoreham	05.10	5.2	17.44	5.0
Holyhead	04.49	4.7	17.28	4.6	Southampton	05.01	3.9	17.34	3.9
Hull (Albert D)	00.12	7.5	12.51	7.3	Swansea	00.11	7.9	12.38	7.6
Ilfracombe	-	-	12.20	7.2	Tees	10.23	4.5	22.55	4.4
King's Lynn	00.15	5.5	13.01	5.2	Walton-on-N	05.44	3.6	18.16	3.6

All times BST Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, 23F (73F); lowest day max: Tynemouth, North Tyneside, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: no appreciable rainfall highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 11.0hr.

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THE TIMES 2

RYDER CUP '97

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

BUSINESS
How to become a Richer guru and actually help clients
PAGE 31

CREME
Career path that led to a job in television
PAGE 40

SPORT
Lynne Truss sees the men of Europe bond at Valderrama
PAGE 50

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1997

Blair to back break-up of Tube before sell-off

Robinson: to receive report

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to back a controversial recommendation to privatise the London Underground by splitting it into as many as four parts and selling up to 51 per cent of the businesses.

The move, a U-turn from Labour's pre-election stance, is to follow a report to be submitted next week by Price Waterhouse, the accountants, to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General. Mr Blair is understood to be strongly backing moves to draw up a series of measures that can be introduced in advance of the legislation required to sell off the tube for up to £1.2 billion.

The legislation to push through a sell-off would not be passed until at least 1999, making the sale unlikely before 2001. Ministers concede that the system cannot be allowed to crumble over the next three years and say that investment is a priority.

The Price Waterhouse report, which ministers ordered to be completed urgently in July, is understood to favour giving separate companies ownership both of infrastructure and operation on several lines, although the network would remain under the London Underground corporate identity.

Mr Prescott has been told that the Treasury is prepared to look "sympathetically" at plans to make a single payment to the Tube system next year to kick-start a huge investment programme. The one-off subsidy to help London Underground as it faces escalating costs for the Jubilee Line extension, could be offset partly by new charges on parking and motoring in London.

Mr Prescott is keen to move quickly after clear indications from business that it would back strongly any proposals to sell a majority stake in the business, which has an investment backlog of some £1.5 billion. Railtrack, Virgin Trains, Stagecoach and National Express are among the groups interested in buying a stake in the network.

Mr Prescott will receive a report from London's business community next week outlining support for proposals to sell part of the system. The report from *London First* will make clear that business supports either a system of vertical integration, with private business having a majority stake in up to four sections, or to have separate, long-term franchises of up to 30 years, for operation and infrastructure.

The report will emphasise that the huge sums required to wipe out the investment backlog, of some £750 million a year for five years, is double what is currenty affordable.

Both the *London First* and Price Waterhouse reports are understood to dismiss the current Private Finance Initiative as too cumbersome to attract business interest in such a large sell-off.

Senior government figures conceded yesterday that only a substantial upfront subsidy would make the eventual sell-off palatable to the business community and to the traditional wing of the Labour Party, which has voiced opposition to privatisation of the Underground.

Brown says his tough line will hold down inflation

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN insisted yesterday that he was "optimistic" about the outlook for the economy despite the "threat" posed to inflation by strong consumer spending.

The Chancellor told delegates at the International Monetary Fund meeting in Hong Kong that although the Government had inherited an economy in danger of overheating "we are now on course to get the economy back on track next year".

Mr Brown's comments came as revised GDP figures showed the economy was growing at its fastest rate since 1989, heightening speculation that the Bank of England will raise interest rates again in November. Second-quarter GDP increased by an annual rate of 3.5 per cent, compared with a previously published estimate of 3.4 per cent.

Separate balance of payments data showed Britain's current account in surplus for the third consecutive quarter — the best performance since 1985.

Mr Brown signalled in his IMF speech that he will continue to maintain a tough line on inflation by holding down public spending and pursuing a "vigilant" monetary policy. He expressed some concern about the impact of the strong pound on industry but insisted that business would benefit more from an end to the "stop-go instability of the past".

"I want the British economy to enjoy the far greater underlying strength that comes from a base of high levels of growth and employment alongside low and stable inflation," he said.

The Chancellor also emphasised that the Government would continue to help British businesses to prepare for the single currency, but gave no indication as to whether the Government intends to join EMU in the first round.

But Eddie George, who was also speaking in Hong Kong yesterday, again urged Europe to adopt a cautious approach in the run-up to monetary union. The Governor of the Bank of England said that he could not "understand the hurry" towards a single currency as there were real economic risks to the project.

Mr George added, however, that it was important to plan assuming that EMU would proceed on time, and Britain would need to pursue parallel monetary and fiscal policies even if it did not join the single currency.

In London, the stronger than expected GDP data caused some jitters on the stock market. The FTSE 100 fell 48.2 points to 5,027.5. The pound climbed two pfennigs to DM2.8946, its highest level for three weeks. Sterling's trade-weighted index also rose 0.6 to 101.4. Economists said the Bank would be concerned by the revised GDP figures, which showed real disposable income surging by 3 per cent in the quarter — the biggest jump since 1979.

But the savings ratio unexpectedly rose from 10.4 to 11.7 per cent, its highest level since early last year. The second-quarter current account surplus totalled £888 million despite the strong pound. Andrew Cates, UK economist at UBS, said: "Just as the high savings ratio indicates that conditions in the economy are different to those that characterised the boom of the late 1980s, the lack of any deterioration in the current account balance also indicates that overheating fears have been overcooked."

Commentary page 29

Gordon Brown, pictured yesterday in Hong Kong, told the IMF that he would pursue a vigilant monetary policy

Telecoms regulator decides to quit

BY ERIC REGULY

DON CRUICKSHANK, the regulator that British Telecom loves to hate, yesterday said he would not seek a second term as Director-General of Telecommunications, and urged the Government to replace him with a commission instead of another individual regulator.

Mr Cruickshank, 55, said he was under no pressure from the Government to step down. "I decided last Christmas that I would not seek a second term. Five years as a full-time regulator is enough."

He said he has no full-time job prospects, but it emerged last night that he has been offered a consultancy role on the Government's education and public access taskforce, which examines ways to connect schools to the information superhighway.

Mr Cruickshank, whose salary is £126,400, is considered the toughest of the utility regulators. He thinks utility regulators should be replaced by a commission, under the theory that several points of view are better than one. This, he believes, would speed up the decision-making process and make regulation more transparent and more accountable to the public.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	5027.5	(-48.2)
Yield	3.27%	
FTSE All share	2364.85	(-16.66)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	7969.57	(-27.26)*
S&P Composite	952.53	(-2.90)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	$5\frac{7}{16}$%*	($5\frac{9}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$100\frac{1}{32}$%	($100\frac{9}{32}$)
Yield	6.37%*	(6.35%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	$7\frac{7}{32}$%	($7\frac{1}{4}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	$117\frac{27}{32}$	($117\frac{27}{32}$)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6120*	(1.6049)
London:		
$	1.6123	(1.6029)
DM	2.8946	(2.8740)
FFr	9.7261	(9.6575)
SFr	2.3761	(2.3572)
Yen	195.88	(195.76)
£ Index	100.4	(100.8)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.7970*	(1.7905)
FFr	6.0355*	(6.0140)
SFr	1.4735*	(1.4695)
Yen	121.61*	(121.78)
$ Index	106.0	(106.2)
Tokyo close Yen 122.71		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Dec)	$18.85	($18.65)
GOLD		
London close	$321.25	($321.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Virgin in joint TV venture with CBS

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

RICHARD BRANSON, the Virgin boss who has always missed out in the battle for a major television licence in the UK, is to attempt to establish a significant presence in international programme production.

Virgin, which has set up a new international production and distribution arm, Virgin Century Television, yesterday announced a joint venture with CBS Broadcast International.

Under the deal both companies will have first look at each other's ideas and programme formats and events. Virgin is attractive to a US network such as CBS because of its youthful image and feel for younger markets. The UK company already has a 50 per cent interest in an independent production company called Rapido.

Mr Branson said yesterday: "This venture represents our initial entry into international television."

Jeremy Fox, who led Virgin's ultimately unsuccessful bid for the Channel 5 licence in the UK, will run Virgin Century Television and manage the new partnership with Rainer Siek, president of CBS Broadcast International.

Mr Fox said yesterday he was already talking to banks to raise a significant fund for investing in production and rights for programme distribution around the world.

Virgin does not exclude moving on to owning channels of its own in future.

Car registration in August to end

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

THE August registration plate change which causes chaos in Britain's motor industry is to be abolished. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, has confirmed that the one-month boom in which the motor industry makes a quarter of its annual sales will be replaced by a new system in which number plates will change twice yearly.

The decision was greeted with relief last night by motor industry executives who have been pressing for years for an end to the 30-year-old system.

Chris McGowan, chief executive of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, said: "This is most welcome news. The industry could not go on with a ludicrous situation in which 25 per cent of sales were crammed into four weeks. It was no good to the industry and no good for the consumer."

Whether the industry has seen its last August sale remains to be seen though Dr Strang is ready to consult the industry on the timing of the introduction for a new system. In letters to industry leaders, he promised that a firm decision would be made before the end of the year.

Sales of new cars hit a record 525,539 last month, worth an estimated £5 billion.

Greener says GrandMet merger still on schedule

BY DOMINIC WALSH

GUINNESS, the brewing and drinks company, was upbeat over the propects for its proposed £24 billion merger with Grand Metropolitan yesterday as it reported first-half profits ahead of market expectations.

Tony Greener, chairman, said pre-tax profits, which were 4 per cent higher at £372 million on turnover slightly down at £2.03 billion, would have come in 12 per cent higher at a constant exchange rate and discounting the effect of two share buybacks.

Pointing to "solid gains" at both Guinness Brewing and United Distillers, he said: "This momentum provides a powerful springboard for the proposed merger with GrandMet, which continues on schedule for completion just after the turn of the year."

Mr Greener refused to comment on the state of relations with its biggest shareholder, LVMH, which continues to oppose the merger, but was adamant regulatory hurdles on both sides of the Atlantic could be overcome. "We are totally confident we will receive a decision that is totally satisfactory, both to us and the regulators," he said.

The strength of sterling knocked £12 million off interim profits and Mr Greener estimated the full-year effect at around £60 million. Some £6 million was wiped from its share of the profits of Moët Hennessy, the LVMH subsidiary in which it has a 34 per cent stake. Yesterday LVMH reported an 18 per cent rise in interim profits to Fr1.92 billion (£197 million).

Mr Greener said the effects of recent currency turmoil would be broadly offset.

Earnings per share were up 9 per cent at 13.4p, and the interim dividend, to be paid on October 28 as a foreign income dividend, rises 8 per cent to 4.92p.

Wall Street poker king returns $3bn

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

JOHN MERIWETHER, the Wall Street trader who once offered to bet $10 million (£6.25 million) on a game of Liar's Poker, is returning half the money in his $6 billion hedge fund, Long Term Capital Management, to investors.

The move follows a collapse in the returns from 60 per cent two years ago to 15. All capital invested after December 31 1994, ten months after the fund was launched, and all profits will be returned.

The former head bond trader at Salomon Brothers became a legend in 1986 when John Gutfreund, Salomon's chairman, walked up to him on the trading floor and asked him to play a single game of Liar's Poker, a bluffing game based on the serial numbers on dollar bills, for $1 million.

Mr Meriwether replied that he would play for $10 million or not at all. Mr Gutfreund smiled, shook his head and returned to his office.

But yesterday, in a jittery letter, Mr Meriwether told investors: "The fund has excess capital . . .primarily because of a substantial increase in the capital base from the larger-than-expected, past-realised rates of return, and high reinvestment rates elected by the fund's investors."

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Labour to list firms 'that need to improve'

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

MARGARET BECKETT, the President of the Board of Trade, is to publish details of companies and industries that ministers think could improve. The move is expected to prompt concerns about the Labour Party returning to old-style interventionist policies of the 1970s.

Mrs Beckett is convinced that specifying which industries and sectors are underperforming is a vital tool for increasing the UK's overall economic and industrial competitiveness. This is depite Labour insisting it will not revert to the old-style Labour industrial policies of "picking winners", which ministers now dismiss as a policy of supporting losers.

Mrs Beckett told a Confederation of British Industry conference last night that the Government will apply the business technique of benchmarking — measuring a company's performance against the best — to British business as a whole in a new document to be published shortly, *Benchmarking British Business.*

The DTI said that this "will identify business areas in need of improvement", while Mrs Beckett told the CBI: "It is only by assessing themselves against the best, both at home and abroad, that companies will really improve."

She told the CBI that British companies at their best were "world beaters", and singled out three she regarded in that category — BOC, the industrial gas company, Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine manufacturer partially based in her Derby constituency, and JCB, the construction equipment maker whose chairman, Sir Anthony Bamford, was identified by Tony Blair as a large donor to the Conservative Party.

Mrs Beckett said companies must manage their employees to get the best from them, to embrace technological improvements and innovation, and to operate partnership at all levels, but said that such individual moves by firms did not mean that companies "will receive no practical help from the Government".

After earlier in the day holding "constructive" talks with Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, on the planned BA/American Airlines and P&O/Stena alliances, Mrs Beckett described herself to the CBI as "the voice of business in Government". She followed the speech with the first meeting of the Government's business-led advisory group on competitiveness.

End of journey, page 31

Apple 'is heading for end'

From Oliver August in New York

APPLE Computer — which recently invited Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, to help rescue the group — has chosen a new strategy that will destroy its entire business, says a top Silicon Valley research company. Dataquest, a widely respected industry watcher, said: "Apple has started down a path that will lead to its demise as a serious player in the PC market.' The move is Apple's decision to curb the licensing of its computers, which are not compatible with other PCs. Apple bought the licence and assets of Power Computing Corp, the largest Apple clone-maker, for $100 million last month. Last week, IBM and Motorola said they would no longer license the Mackintosh operating system from Apple.

BILL GRAHAM

Neville Simms said that the shift away from housebuilding was proving successful

Tarmac in warning on quarrying tax plan

By Adam Jones

NEVILLE SIMMS, chief executive of Tarmac, the heavy building materials and construction group, hit out at the possibility of a tax on quarrying yesterday.

Mr Simms said it would raise the cost of construction projects to customers. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, announced a review of the environmental costs of the extraction of aggregates in his first Budget.

Tarmac reported first-half pre-tax profits of £38.6 million yesterday, compared with a loss of £58.3 million in the same period last year, when it had to absorb a £65 million restructuring charge.

Turnover on continuing operations increased from £1.2 billion to £1.33 billion. Net debt fell from £512 million at June 30, 1996, to £411 million this year. Heavy building materials operating profits rose from £26.4 million to £43.3 million. In construction services they rose from £8.2 million to £11.7 million.

Mr Simms said the results were "real evidence" that the group's shift away from housebuilding offers the potential for significant earnings growth. An unchanged interim dividend of 3p will be paid on December 3.

Tempus, page 30

Vanguard gives up work on ulcer drug

By Paul Durman

VANGUARD MEDICA, the drug development company, has abandoned work on a treatment that had little effect on patients treated in phase II trials.

Vanguard and its partner Eli Lilly, the large US drugs company, had hoped to use VML 295 to treat those suffering with ulcerated colons. However, Robert Mansfield, Vanguard's chief executive, said the drug proved no more effective than the placebo.

Mr Mansfield played down the significance of the setback, saying that ulcerative colitis was recognised to be a high risk area. But Vanguard's shares fell 10p to a low for the year of 367½p, barely half their 705p peak.

Mr Mansfield said Vanguard was making good progress with the four phase III trials of its most important project, the migraine drug that it has licensed to SmithKline Beecham.

The increased spending on the drug pushed Vanguard's research and development costs to £10.2 million (£3.8 million) in the first half. With no revenues, Vanguard suffered a pre-tax loss of £9.9 million (£3.7 million). It ended June with cash of £44.5 million.

US backing helps Biotech's trial

By Paul Durman

THE US National Cancer Institute is backing an independent breast cancer trial of Marimastat, the cancer drug that is British Biotech's most important product.

The study, to be run by cancer specialists of the Eastern Co-operative Oncology Group, is the second "co-operative" study to look at Marimastat. British Biotech sees this as a sign of growing awareness of the drug among cancer specialists.

Most of British Biotech's £1.1 billion stock-market valuation rests on the success of Marimastat. The Oxford company said its own phase III trials of the drug were on track, with first results expected in the first half of 1999.

The company has begun a sixth study of the drug in ovarian cancer. It has yet to examine the drug in breast cancer.

British Biotech said Zacutex, the pancreatitis drug being reviewed by European regulators, was also making satisfactory progress.

It said the increase in its first-quarter losses, from £8 million to £9 million, was as planned. At the end of July, British Biotech still had cash of £173.1 million, following last year's substantial rights issue.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Siebe to buy Eaton division for £193m

SIEBE, the acquisitive UK engineering company, has agreed to pay £193 million for the worldwide appliance control operations (ACO) of Eaton Corporation, of America, it was announced yesterday. ACO manufactures electronic and electro-mechanical control products for domestic appliances. Customers include General Electric, Electrolux and Bosch-Siemens. With headquarters in Strasbourg, it has manufacturing operations in America, Mexico, France, Italy, Germany, Monaco, Brazil, Australia and China, and employs about 4,800 people worldwide.

In the 12 months to June 30 ACO earned operating profits of £19.4 million on sales of £272.6 million. Net assets were £129.8 million. Separately, Siebe announced the proposed divestment of selected non-core businesses, including its Tecalemit garage equipment operations and Wells Electronics, the US manufacturer of semiconductor burn-in and test sockets. Combined sales of the operations to be divested were £115 million in the year to April 5; net assets were £44 million.

Southern publishes dip

PROFIT before tax at Southern Newspapers, publisher of *The Southern Daily Echo*, fell to £14.1 million (£18.8 million) in the year to June 30. Last year's figure included a £7.5 million profit on the sale of the group's Southampton city centre offices. Although Southern received a further £4.2 million from the sale this year, the group took a £3.4 million exceptional charge. A final dividend of 15p a share, due on November 11, makes 20p (17.75p). Adjusted earnings were 48.05p (37.95p).

Sentry Farming falls

SHARES in Sentry Farming fell from 115p to 83½p after the food production group slid deeper into the red for the first half of 1997 and said full-year profits are likely to be substantially lower than last year if lower wheat prices persist. Wheat prices have fallen significantly, due largely to the strength of sterling. Pre-tax losses in the first half grew from £497,000 to £774,000. Losses per share rose from 5.23p to 6.9p. Again there is no half-year dividend.

Talks lift Arcadian

SHARES in Arcadian rose from 50½p to 65½p after the company revealed that it had received an approach which may or may not lead to an offer for the hotels company. Arcadian said that discussions were at a preliminary stage and that a further announcement will be made in due course. Arcadian is worth almost £96 million. It made £3.6 million before tax on sales of £30.5 million in the year to December 31.

SB's Requip approved

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM has received US Food and Drug Administration clearance to begin marketing Requip, a treatment for Parkinson's disease. Tests have shown that it can enable early-stage sufferers to recover some of their motor skills, and can also help late-stage sufferers who are being treated with levodopa, the current standard treatment. Requip, which is forecast to have peak sales of £200 million, can cause side effects including nausea, dizziness, somnolence and headaches.

Shorts to create 300 jobs

SHORTS, the Belfast aerospace company, is making a £108.4 million investment that will create more than 300 jobs and safeguard 670 more over the next five years, Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary said. The company is to design and make vital airframe components for two new aircraft projects being undertaken by Bombardier, its Canadian parent. Shorts has been given financial assistance of £19.5 million by the Government's Industrial Development Board.

Simon advances 16%

THE restructured Simon Group, formerly Simon Engineering, reported profits of £5.8 million before tax for the first half of 1997, a 16 per cent rise on the same period last year. Turnover fell from £165.8 million to £119 million as the group continued to focus on port and engineering services. Earnings were 2.3p a share (1.5p). No interim dividend will be paid. Simon Group dismissed previous rumours of a possible bid from Rutland Trust. The shares rose 1p to 39p.

Gold Medal to float

GOLD MEDAL TRAVEL is to seek a stock market flotation within two years after acquiring the controlling interest in Travelworld, the travel agent, and full control of Airline Network, the telesales centre for discounted scheduled airfares, for an undisclosed sum. Gold Medal, based in Blackpool, specialises in the wholesale of airline seats to independent travel agents. It expects turnover to rise from £245 million to up to £300 million in the next 12 months.

Proudfoot passes payout

PROUDFOOT, the management consultancy, is again passing payment of an interim dividend after returning pre-tax profits little changed at £2.57 million in the six months to June 30, against £2.52 million for the first half of the previous year. Earnings rose to 2p a share from 1.4p. Malcolm Hughes, chief executive, said the company needed to preserve net cash reserves until it was clear that the trend of earnings recovery and cash generation could be sustained.

Britton profits fall

BRITTON GROUP, the packaging company, had a fall in pre-tax profits to £7.9 million from £11.1 million in the half-year to June 30, affected by the pound's strength and a decline in cartons division sales. Turnover was £109.5 million (£110 million). Earnings fell to 4.24p a share (5.76p) but the interim dividend is 1.45p (1.32p). The shares rose 3p to 75½p, against a 155½p 12-month high. Robin Williams, chief executive, said trading conditions remained competitive.

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

PLAY PORTFOLIO
£200,000 TO BE WON

£2,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PRICES, PAGE 32

Start playing new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £2,000 a day six days a week in *The Times*, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win £5,000. Better still, there is a £10,000 weekly prize, if you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. A second gamecard was inserted in Monday's *Times*. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without the risks.

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HOW TO PLAY

- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid. (See example, above)
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 32).
- The eight are your "Portfolio of Shares".
- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose shares are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 32 add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.
- When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).
- If your overall total exactly matches the points required in the Daily Portfolio Dividend, printed on the Portfolio panel on page 32, you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

WEEKLY ACCUMULATOR GAME

The weekly accumulator game started in *The Times* on Monday. To play the weekly accumulator game simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in the *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £10,000.

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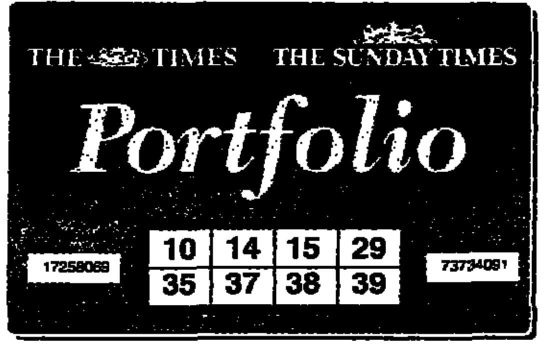
Claims for *The Times* daily Portfolio dividend must be made to the Portfolio claims line on 0171-481 3388 between 9.30am and 3pm today. No claims can be accepted outside these hours and you must claim your prize the day you win. You must have your card with you when you claim. Other persons can claim on your behalf provided they have your card. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours. In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners.

*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. Cards are also available at selected newsagents.

THE TIMES



IMF turns down crisis fund plan

By Janet Bush
Economics Editor

ASIAN plans for a new $100 billion (£62 billion) crisis fund to bail out troubled economies in the region were given a firm thumbs down by the International Monetary Fund yesterday.

Speaking at the IMF's annual meeting in Hong Kong, Stanley Fischer, first deputy managing director, objected to a fund that would lend money without linking the loans to strict conditions of economic performance.

Mr Fischer said: "Access to loans with no conditionality would be a mistake, simply a mistake."

The idea for a crisis fund was discussed at the first meeting of a new grouping of European and Asian finance ministers which took place before the gathering in Hong Kong. The plan, which was floated in response to the collapse of markets in Thailand and the rest of East Asia, has met with more or less unanimous industrialised countries and now from the IMF.

The Fund has already put in place a $17 billion rescue package for Thailand with extremely tough conditions for economic reform.

Access to Justice wound up

By Gavin Lumsden

ACCESS TO JUSTICE, a company that provides legal advice to people who could not obtain legal aid, has been wound up by the Department of Trade and Industry, after an investigation revealed serious flaws in the firm's accounts.

In an exceptionally swift action the High Court granted the winding up order on the same day that the DTI presented its petition.

Shirley Jackson, of Begbie Norton, which has been appointed liquidator by the Official Receiver, said that the company was insolvent and had been trading inappropriately.

Established in 1985, Access to Justice derived most of its income from letting space at its offices in Holborn, Central London. A meeting is to be held with a company director this morning, she said.

The petition was presented after an investigation had been carried out under Section 447 of the Companies Act 1985.

All public inquiries concerning the company should be made to the Official Receiver, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3SS.

Hely Hutchinson lobbies over textbooks

Hodder to target schools

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

TIM HELY HUTCHINSON, chief executive of Hodder Headline, the book publisher, hopes to persuade the Government that parents should pay for children's schoolbooks.

Mr Hely Hutchinson, with other publishers, has argued that the present £50 to £75 per pupil spent on books each year is completely inadequate. Instead, they are lobbying for the Government to introduce a new scheme that would require parents to cover the cost of books while offering protection for families with low incomes. "It is certainly in [the Government's] thinking already." Mr Hely Hutchinson claimed yesterday.

Hodder, which was at the forefront of the campaign that led to the ending of the Net Book Agreement, was reporting a rise in pre-tax profits to £1.3 million from £500,000 for the six months to June 30. Sales fell to £38 million from £40.3 million as the company discontinued its low-margin agency and door-to-door business overseas.

Earnings per share almost doubled to 2.5p and the interim dividend has been raised by 10 per cent to 2.2p. Net borrowings were reduced by 21 per cent to £7.3 million and gearing has been reduced to 22 per cent.

Current Hodder titles include biographies of Peter Cook and Dickie Bird and novels by Elizabeth George, who is moving to Hodder from Transworld, Stephen King and Charles Frazier.

Mr Hely Hutchinson said the second half had started well with like-for-like publishing sales ahead in the first eight months. Hodder shares rose 16p to 196p yesterday.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.34	2.17
Austria Sch	21.37	19.71
Belgium Fr	62.95	57.99
Canada $	2.366	2.176
Cyprus Cyp£	0.897	0.825
Denmark Kr	11.61	10.72
Finland Mkk	9.18	8.43
France Fr	10.1	9.41
Germany Dm	3.05	2.18
Greece Dr	483	444
Hong Kong $	13.32	12.12
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.15	1.08
Israel Shk	5.97	5.32
Italy Lira	3000	2769
Japan Yen	210.93	193.40
Malta	0.671	0.612
Netherlds Gld	3.452	3.157
New Zealand $	2.69	2.45
Norway Kr	12.32	11.38
Portugal Esc	306.53	284.50
S Africa Rd	8.29	7.34
Spain Pta	256.79	237.00
Sweden Kr	13.13	12.03
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.31
Turkey Lira	268809	268731
USA $	1.719	1.576

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Team needed to end NewRo-sis

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Don Cruickshank has spared us the double speak of politicians. He is bowing out of Oftel not to spend more time with his family but to spend more time in the private sector, where his talents will undoubtedly command a higher price than even the souped-up regulatory authority for which he is calling could possibly afford.

His business background, coupled with his inside knowledge of Oftel's thinking and practices, will make Mr Cruickshank a very valuable commodity, although his regular bad-tempered spats with BT perhaps limit his options for future employment. There again, BT directors may feel that it is worth doubling his current £124,600 salary just to have him safely on their side.

But Mr Cruickshank's decision to forgo a second term of office as Director-General of Telecommunications does focus attention on the difficulties of recruiting, and keeping, high-calibre regulators. It is an issue causing some concern to Howard Davies, the man charged with creating NewRo, the City's new super-regulator.

Mr Davies has now settled on a home for his all-encompassing organisation, but he has yet to name the top team that will be moving into Canary Wharf with him. So far, suggestions as to who may be his chief executive have been remarkably unimaginative, concentrating on individuals already ensconced in the regulatory field. Yet if NewRo is to be an effective new force instead of an unwieldy bureaucracy, it will need to attract a raft of high-calibre, and potentially very expensive, individuals.

The question now being debated around the foundations of NewRo is whether it should be aiming for a structure based around career regulators, or whether there are advantages in building an organisation which is merely a stepping stone in a financial career. The latter is already the *de facto* norm in many of the financial regulatory authorities, where staff turnover has reached levels that threaten organisational chaos. At the PIA, the departure rate is about 20 per cent a year but at Imro, it has apparently reached twice that level.

The uncertainty generated by the impending amalgamation of the authorities under NewRo's umbrella is obviously one cause of concern, but money is another. The private sector is currently finding no difficulty in fishing out regulators with the bait of hefty increases in their earnings.

Imagine how the problem could be compounded once the organisations all gather down in Docklands and staff from one regulator learn just how much more those from another regulator — probably the Bank of England — pocket.

Mr Davies has taken on a formidable task. Devising the structure and systems of a super-SIB would be sufficient challenge, but building it while simultaneously keeping the existing structures functioning offers horrendous scope for disaster. If those disasters are to be avoided, Mr Davies will need the services of a first-rate organisation man at his side.

Give prudence a chance

There was a single, stunning figure in the voluminous national accounts for the second quarter. The savings ratio, the most eagerly watched indicator of consumer confidence — or lack of it — jumped to 11.7 per cent, roughly on a par with the level last seen in spring 1996. So much for a rampant consumer boom. To put this figure into perspective, the savings ratio fell to 4 per cent in 1988 when the economy hit boiling point. It is truly remarkable that the ratio now remains at nearly three times this level after five years of an economic recovery that has latterly seen tax cuts and, of course, an unprecedented one-off addition to the nation's wealth in the form of building society windfalls. There seems to be a distinct lack of consumer animal spirits considering such a promising economic backdrop.

The statisticians, of course, would like to confuse the issue a little, and point out that the big jump in the savings ratio largely reflects hefty increases in dividends that have boosted pension funds, which count as personal sector wealth. So, there has been a significant rise in unspent income rather than an increase in active savings. If the rise in the savings ratio had reflected that consumers were choosing to save large rises in wages, it would have told an even more dramatic story about consumer caution in this age of insecurity.

But the figure is still dramatic and could have looked even better. For windfalls that have been saved do not figure in the national accounts as they have been redistributed. But any windfall shares which were cashed in and then used to buy cars or holidays *do* show up as consumer spending. This mismatch of accounting conventions should, as the Office for National Statistics points out, lead to a *fall* in the savings ratio.

So where does that accounting nightmare leave us? It seems that, taking out the effect of the strong increase in dividends, the savings ratio would have remained roughly stable. Assuming a windfall boost to spending, it should have fallen. So, even if our national statisticians cannot capture the effect of windfall savings, they are there.

You only have to look at record purchases of Peps in unit trusts in the quarter to see that consumers are not abandoning the defensive good sense that has been the hallmark of this low inflation recovery. Inflation hawks at the Bank of England may feel the urge to increase rates again, but the prudence of the public does not justify it.

A vintage approach

Last night there was some merry-making in Dublin as the directors of GPA gathered to toast the future of a company which, not so long ago, looked to have only a hair-raising past. But led by the remarkable Dennis Stevenson, the aircraft leasing company that fell to earth with debts of £3.3 billion is now getting off the ground again, in a new, more restrained, guise.

The terms of the refinancing he engineered prevent Mr Stevenson rushing out and buying a shiny new fleet of aeroplanes, but there would be little danger of that any how. The cerebral Mr Stevenson has effectively turned GPA into a new business, selling analysis and advice.

Shareholders in Pearson should take note of the extraordinary achievements at GPA. While there has been some carping that the new top team of chairman Stevenson and chief executive Marjorie Scardino have not moved fast enough to produce a dramatic restructuring of the sprawling company, there has been considerable activity.

Some businesses have been sold and important new appointments have been made. Hard decisions are being taken, not least that of putting up for auction almost 1,200 cases of vintage wine. The hangover from the days when the group owned the Chateau Latour vineyard is likely to raise more than £2 million. Selling it rather than quaffing it in the boardroom is indicative of the new regime now installed there.

Surely not . . .

THE strategy at MEPC is a carefully considered response to the changing conditions in the property market. The decision to buy PSIT, pull out of the United States and Australia, and return at least £300 million to shareholders is obviously intended as a means of building long-term shareholder value. It would be totally malicious to see it as a response to lurking predators, and a threat to management jobs.

GE Capital in £537m Irish takeover

By Martin Barrow

GE CAPITAL'S corporate spending spree in Europe continued yesterday when the US company announced a Ir£591 million (£537 million) agreed takeover bid for Woodchester Investments, the Irish leasing company (See Commentary this page).

Ireland's biggest takeover will raise almost £8 million for Craig McKinney, Woodchester's chairman and chief executive. It will also provide a Ir£391 million cash injection for Credit Lyonnais, the ailing French bank that was ordered to sell its 54 per cent interest in Woodchester by the French Government as part of a refinancing plan. Credit Lyonnais has given irrevocable acceptances in respect of its holding.

The takeover requires the approval of the French Treasury, Ireland's Central Bank and the Bank of England, which regulates Woodchester's UK financing businesses.

GE Capital, the financial services arm of America's General Electric, is believed to have seen off rival approaches from Ford Credit and AT&T Capital to secure a recommendation for its terms.

GE has been investing heavily in Europe recently, and has targeted the British Isles. In August it acquired Central Transport Rental, the former Tiphook trailer rental business, for £118 million, having acquired TLS, the commercial vehicle business, for £68.2 million in July. Earlier this year it bought BRS Car Lease and DBS Nationwide, a modular building company.

Woodchester principally operates in motor and equipment leasing and instalment credit, with extensive operations in Britain, Ireland and Portugal. The company also has a 28 per cent interest in Lookers, the UK motor dealer.

Yesterday Woodchester reported a rise in first-half pretax profits to Ir£25.1 million, up 17 per cent, with earnings of Ir8.73p a share, up 18 per cent. In view of the GE Capital offer there is no interim dividend.

Mr McKinney and Dan O'Connor, deputy chief executive, said yesterday that they expected to remain with the company after the takeover. Mr McKinney, a polo-playing Scot, owns 2.6 million Woodchester shares and holds options over a further 759,986 that would yield a profit of Ir£799,961 at the offer price. He founded Woodchester with his brother Jack in 1977.

Redland in joint venture with Lafarge

REDLAND, the roof tiles group, plans to resolve the problems of its French aggregates business through a 50-50 joint venture with Lafarge, the French building materials group (Paul Durman writes).

Redland aims to combine Granulats with Lafarge's sand, gravel and crushed rock business. Granulats sold 29 million tonnes of aggregates last year, while the Lafarge business had sales of 26 million tonnes. Redland also intends to sell its French readymix concrete business to Lafarge.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Richard Glover, chief executive of BSM, tries the driving seat of the school's new £25,000 simulator at the Guildford office

BSM steers new course with simulators

TEENAGERS under the age of 17 are being urged by the British School of Motoring to learn to drive using advanced car simulators which have cost the troubled company £25,000 each (Chris Ayres writes).

The company, which suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £1.5 million from £2.9 million in the half year to June 27, blamed its poor performance on the introduction of a written test.

Richard Glover, BSM's chief executive, said the company was adversely affected by the Government's decision to stop learners taking a practical test until they have passed a written test.

"We had no indication that they would introduce that rule," he said. "What has happened is there has been a time lag between people passing their theory tests and taking practical tests. As far as we can tell, the number of applications has now picked up again."

Turnover for the half year fell to £12.7 million from £13.8 million. Earnings fell to 3.9p a share from 7.5p. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.53p a share, payable on October 10.

MEPC to withdraw from US and Australia

By Carl Mortished

MEPC, the property group, plans to quit the United States and Australia, shedding £1 billion worth of property, in a move that will reverse more than two decades of investment overseas (See Commentary this page).

At least £300 million of the net proceeds will be returned to shareholders, probably by issuing a redeemable preference share, but the sell-off will lead to a reduced dividend. Next year, the pay-out will be cut from the current year's 20p to a minimum of 12p per share.

James Tuckey, chief executive, said the balance of the proceeds would be reinvested in UK property with the focus on retail and industrial buildings: "We feel confident of the direction of the UK market for 18-24 months."

The move is likely to mollify some disgruntled institututions, which urged Hammerson to enter into takeover talks with MEPC earlier this year.

One leading fund manager said yesterday: "After that failed we said this is what we would like you to do. They have responded. We think it is time the board were allowed to get on with the job."

Mr Tuckey indicated that he would be seeking a single buyer for each of the US and Australian portfolios. The overseas properties account for 48 per cent of MEPC's earnings but only 30 per cent of the assets because of the low cost of property finance in the US. The American MEPC assets include the Northridge shopping centre in California, which was damaged in the Los Angeles earthquake.

Tempus, page 30

Bruntcliffe directors to share total of £2.45m on takeover

By Jason Nissé

DIRECTORS of Bruntcliffe Aggregates, the building materials firm facing a takeover bid from Ennstone, are to receive termination and bonus payments equal to 9.5 per cent of the market value of the company if the £26 million deal goes through.

Ennstone's offer, worth 45p per Bruntcliffe share, is expected to go through in the next few days, leading to the departure of Bruntcliffe's three executive directors — Mike Wallis, chief executive, Nigel Moreton, finance director, and John Baxter.

They are to receive termination payments of £587,000, £492,000 and £446,000 respectively. In addition they will share a £750,000 takeover bonus. This was included in their service contracts by a deed of variation, signed on Christmas Eve, last year.

The directors are also entitled to cash in share options worth £180,000, taking the total received by the three directors to £2.45 million, or 9.5 per cent of the value of Ennstone's offer.

Sir Bryan Baker, Bruntcliffe's non-executive chairman, was unavailable yesterday but a spokesman for the company said that the shares had doubled in value since the takeover bonus was put in place.

Building safety firm to go public at £15.5m

By Our City Staff

THE maker of a safety system used to protect workers on high buildings, including Canary Wharf and the Eiffel Tower, is headed for the stock market. Latchways is going public in a flotation that will value the company at £15.5 million.

The company manufactures "fall arrest" safety equipment used by maintenance and construction workers and window cleaners. Other sites where its system is installed include St Paul's Cathedral and the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol.

The company is going public by way of a placing with institutional and private investors at 155p a share. Dealing in the shares is due to start on October 3. Latchways, which has a staff of 25, will use the £1.5 million flotation proceeds to expand its international markets.

In the past three years turnover has risen from £1.7 million in 1995 to £3.6 million in the year to April, while pretax profits have risen from £401,000 to £1.2 million over the same period.

The flotation is being handled by Bell Lawrie White & Co, the broker, of Glasgow.

PizzaExpress signs Middle East deal

By Dominic Walsh

PIZZAEXPRESS has signed a franchise deal that should see at least 50 restaurants open throughout the Middle East over the next four to five years.

The Khorafi group, based in Kuwait, has paid more than £350,000 for the exclusive rights for most Middle Eastern countries, and openings are planned for Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Khorafi staff are currently attending PizzaExpress training courses in the UK. PizzaExpress has just opened its first overseas franchise in Cyprus.

Also in place are agreements covering France and India, while Turkey, Pakistan, Greece and Russia are all under negotiation. The group's Indian partner, the Modi industrial group, is planning 40 units over ten years, the first of which is due to open this autumn in Delhi.

Hugh Osmond, a director of PizzaExpress, said: "Overseas expansion will not become a significant part of the business for a couple of years. But if it works well we will up the rate." For each exclusive territory, the company takes an upfront fee, a fee per restaurant opened plus a royalty of about 6 per cent of sales.

Mr Osmond said the focus for the time being would remain the UK and Ireland, where he believes the current total of 150 restaurants could eventually reach 250-300. In the year to June 30, the group opened 32 restaurants at an average cost of about £400,000 each. It expects to add a further 30 this year. It also bought out 32 franchisees.

The company's rapid rate of expansion fuelled a 58 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £16.2 million on turnover 60 per cent better at £71.1 million. Like-for-like sales were up 9 per cent, and Mr Osmond said trading since the year end had proved "encouraging".

Earnings were 20.1p (13.6p) a share. A final dividend of 2.5p, due on November 12, makes 3.35p for the year (2.7p).

Tempus, page 30

"If perfection on the palate exists, this is it."

– Jim Murray's Complete Book of Whisky, 1997

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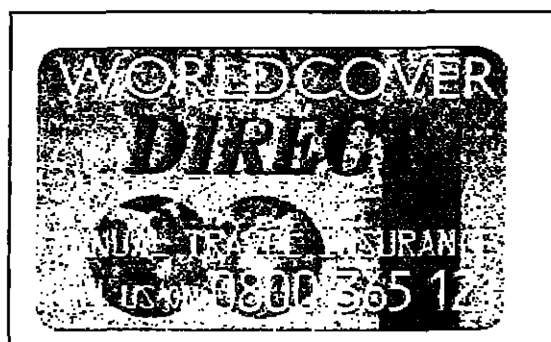

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STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Equities fail once again to hold the high ground

HOPES of records being set were dashed as the stock market climbed tantalisingly close to its all-time, high only to run out of steam.

The FTSE 100 touched 5,095.1 in early trading, but then hit some resistance. It lacked the support seen on Monday from a buoyant futures and gilts market.

The downward drift on Wall Street cast a further shadow and the index of leading UK shares was down 48.2 at 5,027.5, although off the worst of the day. Volumes were 760 million, helped by busy trade in a number of stocks including Shell, BT and BTR. "Having almost touched the all-time high, the market withered away, with little follow through from investors," commented one dealer.

Among those bucking the trend was **Centrica**, putting on 2½p to 90¼p, while Railtrack continued its progress with talk of interest from US investors. The shares ended 13p higher at 867p, a new high for the stock.

Lasmo, the oil exploration group, put on 3½p to 266½p on news of the group's further expansion in the Pakistan gas market. **Asda** was in demand, with over 12 million shares changing hands and the shares pushed to a new high of 162½p, up 2½p.

At one point **SmithKline Beecham** shares were trading 24½p higher after news of FDA approval in the US of its Requip drug for the treatment of Parkinson's disease. They dropped back to end 4p higher at 558½p. Other leading drugs groups lost some of their recent gains, with **Glaxo** easing 7p to £13.56 and Zeneca down 14p to £19.65.

Among healthcare stocks, **Biocompatibles** was again under pressure, sliding a further 60p to 475p, a new low for the year. **British Biotech**, reporting a lower than expected loss in the first quarter, rose 3½p to 168p, while **Cortecs** rose 3½p to 199p.

Property groups found support, with **British Land** up 10p to 615p and **Land Securities** rising 10½p to 950½p. News of **MEPC's** plans to sell its US and Australian interests also found favour, with the shares marked 4p higher at 498½p.

There was a busy trade in **Guinness** shares as the market digested the details of the group's first-half results from Anthony Greener, chairman. In a market eager for news on the progress of its merger with **Grand Metroplitan** and its relationship with LVMH, the shares rose 10p in early trading before closing at 576½p, down 7½p on concern over exchange rate fluctuations.

Anthony Greener, of Guinness, down 7½p on rate fears

GrandMet followed Guinness lower, off 5½p to 589½p, while negative broker comment took a further toll on **Scottish & Newcastle**, the brewing and leisure group, leaving it down 15p at 727p

FTSE 100 debutantes were again sitting it out, with **Woolwich** off 7½p to 308½p amid talk of a sell note from SBC Warburg. **Billiton**, the mining group, another new entrant, was the worst performing FTSE 100 stock, ending 9½ lower at 237p.

Other banks gave up some of their recent gains, with the **Halifax** 12½p lower at 710½p, **Barclays** off 20p at £15.23½ and **NatWest** down 10½p at 859½p.

Second-liners put in a more robust performance, with the FTSE 250 up 2.7 points at 4,709.9.

Among the best was **CRT Group**, the acquisitive training and recruitment group, backed by Michael Milken, the former junk bond dealer. The shares jumped 13p to 255½p.

Manchester United, which reports next week, put on a burst of speed and added 33½p to close at 662½p. Brokers are forecasting pretax profits of around £25 million (£15.4 million).

PizzaExpress was snapped up after rolling out a 58 per cent rise in profits to £16.2 million in the year to June. The shares jumped 31½p to 759p.

News of a bid approach at **Arcadian International**, the hotel group, sent the shares sharply higher to 65½p, up 15p. They hit a low of 38½p in September.

Hodder Headline, the publishing group, was 16p higher at 196p on stronger first-half results, while AIM-quoted **Southern Newspapers**, the printing and publishing group, rose 20½p to 749p after year-end results and a strong trading statement.

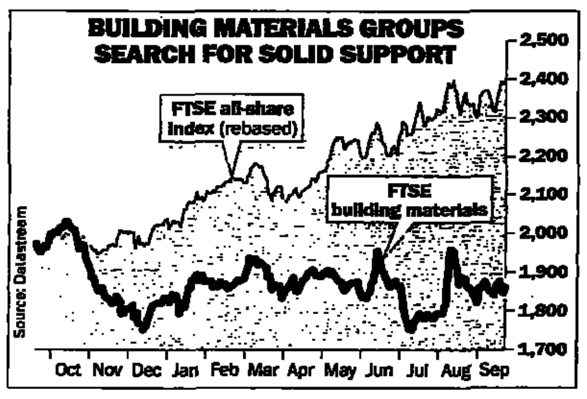
Selected retailers found favour with **Allders**, up 6p to 241½p after its acquisition of seven Maples stores. Further consideration of good figures from **Alexon** helped its shares nudge 4p higher to 231½p, while **Argos** rose 8p to 696½p and **Harvey Nichols** ended 7p ahead at 283½p. Less fortunate was **Safeway**, which lost 10½p to 385p and **Dixons**, down 11p to 613½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: The Bank of England's £1.5 billion auction of Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was covered 2.3 times, but failed to cause a stir in the gilts market.

The December series of the long gilt closed off £5/32 at £117 22/32, with a modest total of 57,000 contracts completed.

At the long end Treasury 8 per cent 2015 ended down £5/32 at £114 9/32, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was off £1/16 at £103 9/32.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Blue chip shares fell in late morning profit-taking after Monday's rise. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 27.26 to 7,969.57 at midday.



TARMAC put on 3p to 129p after moving into the black at the half year, while Pilkington put on 4p to 155½p as more than ten million shares were traded.

Redland closed unchanged at 280½ after further news on its plans to restructure its French businesses.

In spite of the more encouraging news emerging from building materials groups, the sector continues to bump along the bottom, having parted company from the market's upward trend a year ago. Concerns over fluctuating exchange rates, particularly for a number of large stocks such as Redland with a sizeable exposure to the German market, have dampened enthusiasm for the sector, together with worries about rises in UK interest rates, Jonathan Timms, an analyst at Charterhouse Tilney Securities, said.

But the picture could look much rosier within six months, particularly if UK interest rates have peaked. Charterhouse is a buyer of Caradon, which moved up 2p to 191½p and Hanson, off 6½p at 298p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7969.57 (-27.26)
S&P Composite	952.53 (-2.90)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	14094.38 (-13.70)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	909.14 (-1.30)
Sydney:	
AO	2776.9 (+12.0)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4098.20 (+9.28)
Singapore:	
Straits	1916.10 (+7.87)
Brussels:	
General	13594.81 (-45.73)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2997.23 (-20.22)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1191.30 (+2.20)
London:	
FT 30	3254.0 (-23.2)
FTSE 100	5027.5 (-48.2)
FTSE 250	4709.9 (+2.7)
FTSE 350	2420.1 (-18.5)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2690.44 (+23.87)
FTSE All-Share	2364.85 (-16.66)
FTSE Non Financials	2387.98 (-16.42)
FTSE Fixed Interest	130.15 (-0.18)
FTSE Govt Secs	99.52 (-0.13)
Bargains	44440
SEAQ Volume	811.2m
US$	1.6127 (+0.0096)
German Mark	2.8948 (+0.0198)
Exchange Index	100.4 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4597
£:SDR	1.1799
RPI	158.5 Aug (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	157.1 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofgsta Cv Uts	397½	...
Aram Resources	105	...
Bristol & West Prf	116¼	- ½
Cammell Laird	145	...
Computerland UK	120½	+ ½
EMI B	121	- 1½
GR Holdings	52½	...
Galen Holdings	285½	- 9½
Hellcon Pubsig	92½	...
I S Solutions	135½	...
Kingfisher Leisure	185	+ 7½
Reabourne Merlin	104½	...
SBS Group	110½	...
Severn Trent B	37½	...
Stentor Warrants	38½	+ 1
Thorn B	20½	...
Viglen Technology	59	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Gearhouse n/p (250)	98	...
John Lusty n/p (8)	1½	...
Langdons Foods n/p (1)	½	...
Misys Uts Cnv U n/p	80	+ 7½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Grosvenor Inns	168p (+11½p)
Blick	265p (+13p)
PizzaExpress	759p (+31p½)
Blacks Leis	376p (+15p)
Tilbury Dougls	620p (+17½p)
More Gp	676½p (+9p)
Br Land	615p (+10p)
Railtrack	867p (+13p)
FALLS:	
Biocomps Intl	475p (-60p)
CPL Aromas	109p (-12p)
Jardine Math	465½p (-21p)
BAA	557½p (-18p)
Carlton Comm	497p (-14p)
Safeway	385p (-10½p)
Vanguard	367½p (-10p)
Shell	444½p (-12p)
Rank Gp	345p (-8½p)
Blue Circle	383p (-9p)
Br Petroleum	896p (-20½p)
Cable Wireless	523p (-11½p)
AB Food	552p (-12p)
Scot & New	727½p (-15p)
Dixons Gp	613½p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

A question of questions

A YEAR ago MEPC was musing about spinning off its US shopping centres in a Real Estate Investment Trust, a high-yielding property investment vehicle that has become all the rage in America. Today MEPC reckons that it cannot achieve the necessary critical size and, instead, the US portfolio and the Australian properties are to be sold. Dabbling in US real estate since the early 1970s, MEPC built up a staff of more than 400 and one might wonder why the board took so long to conclude that its US operations were not going to make the grade.

However, that is history and MEPC is not just in retreat but is handing surplus capital back to investors, a financial discipline that was unknown at MEPC in the 1980s.

The tougher question is what MEPC does with the remaining cash. Balancing its office portfolio with shops and industrial sheds will reinforce its role as an equity share in the UK property market. Those institutions who told MEPC that it was a poor proxy for US real estate (given the profusion of quoted REITs) cannot complain and the outlook for commercial property still looks good: average yields are 1 per cent higher than benchmark gilts, suggesting capital growth to come. MEPC investors who sit tight should see that filter into the share price.

The wider question is what role should companies such as MEPC and Land Securities play? Holding property through shares is tax inefficient for pension funds and, sooner or later, tenants will reject the restrictive long leases that support such companies. But there is no sign of creative solutions emerging from boardrooms.

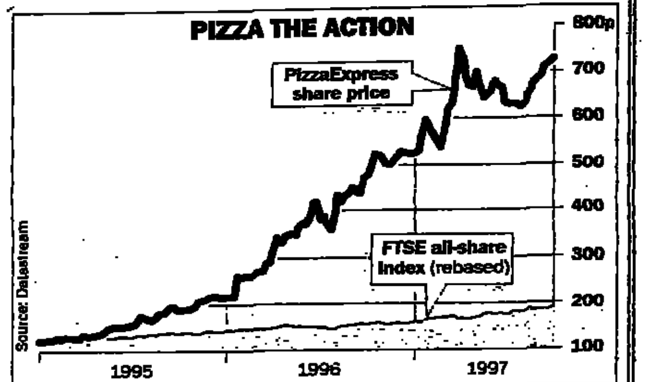
PizzaExpress

ENTREPRENEURS such as Luke Johnson and Hugh Osmond are rarely long-term investors. After bringing PizzaExpress to the market in 1993, most people (themselves included) expected them to cash out within a couple of years. Four years later they are still *in situ* and the company is worth more than £500 million.

While the success of the formula created by Peter Boizot 30 years ago has never been in doubt, there has always been a question mark over its ability to keep on expanding. At flotation Johnson and Osmond were predicting the UK could probably handle 120 restaurants. Yesterday, at the opening of the 150th restaurant, a figure of 250 to 300 was cited.

As with JD Wetherspoon, the pub operator, the key has been the group's ability to find the right properties at the right price. Even though property prices and rents have risen, particularly in London, rents are being kept at less than 7.5 per cent of turnover. Margins are improving as the group buys in domestic franchises, and by the time new sites do begin to dry up, the benefits of international franchising should start to flow through. It is also keeping an eye out for a new concept.

Profits this year of £23 million would put the share price on a fairly racy 27 times earnings, but if, as expected, profits exceed £30 million in 1999, that should come down to just 21. Well worth holding on.



Tarmac

NEVILLE SIMMS is happy with the new Government, barring a grumble about a review of aggregates taxation. An integrated transport policy will bring rail infrastructure work, particularly maintenance contracts, where margins are an attractive 5-7 per cent, although roadbuilding will suffer to reflect the car's unpopularity.

Tarmac has more than a passing interest in the occupants at Downing Street as Simms has hitched his wagon to the PFI, and such projects, if they are won, will lend momentum to the contruction arm's bid for a 3 per cent profit margin. But will this make much difference to group profits?

Tarmac has three big PFI projects so far — a hospital, a prison and motorway improvements — with initial construction costs of £245 million. Their profits depend on the number of cars using the road, or the cells occupied, and will be unclear for several years. The cost of identifying PFI opportunities and bidding for them, meanwhile, is high, and negotiations with government bureaucrats are slow. Tarmac's private finance unit costs £3.5 million a year. The group has been restructured well, although interim profits were boosted by a fall in capital investment. The long-term growth picture is still cloudy and the shares seem fairly valued on a prospective full-year p/e of about 14.7.

Convertibles

THE market in convertible securities continues to shrink as companies retire old issues and rising share prices lead investors to convert the stock into ordinary shares.

Amec, the contractor is using spare cash to retire an outstanding convertible preference share issue and Land Securities could soon be taking a close look at redeeming its 9⅜ per cent convertible bond. The property company can redeem the bonds at par if the share price exceeds 968p and yesterday its shares were 950p. A company of LandSec's strength ought to be able to borrow ten-year money at 7½ per cent or better, so there is no reason to keep such securities.

The convertible market has shrunk from £15 billion a few years ago to £12 billion with few new issues, while corporate cash generation encourages redemptions. The continued absence of borrowers is curious given huge demand for the product: BAA recently managed to raise £200 million at the astonishing rate of 4⅞ per cent.

Such cheap money ought to be attracting corporate treasurers but the obsession with efficient balance sheets and the Chancellor's removal of the dividend tax credit renders even hybrid debt/equity issues unfashionable. But why argue with 5 per cent?

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101½	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	100		8.75	
106[illegible]	100[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	100[illegible]		14.90	6.71
115½	113[illegible]	Treas 4% 1998	115½		4.00	6.93
103[illegible]	100[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	100[illegible]		9.67	6.91
101[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	100[illegible] †		7.24	7.06
110[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	104[illegible]		13.41	7.03
114[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	108[illegible] †	– [illegible]	14.33	7.05
109[illegible]	105[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	105[illegible]	– [illegible]	11.39	7.04
105[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	103[illegible]	– [illegible]	9.22	6.92
111[illegible]	107[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	107[illegible] †	– [illegible]	11.41	7.00
108[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	105[illegible]	– [illegible]	9.96	6.88
99[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	98[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.09	6.86
109[illegible]	106[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	106[illegible]	– [illegible]	9.63	6.98
106[illegible]	104[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	104[illegible]	– [illegible]	8.60	6.91
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	103[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.75	6.84
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2000	103[illegible]	– [illegible]	8.21	6.93
119[illegible]	114[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	115[illegible]	– [illegible]	11.29	6.93
112[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	109[illegible]	– [illegible]	9.15	6.87
101[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	100[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.95	6.84
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
101[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 7% 2002	101[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.93	6.73
122[illegible]	109[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	112	– [illegible]	8.70	6.82
105[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	105[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.56	6.76
116[illegible]	111[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	115[illegible]	– [illegible]	8.66	6.81
116[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	114[illegible]	– [illegible]	10.08	6.90
88[illegible]	82[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	88[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.95	5.57
115[illegible]	109[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	115[illegible]	– [illegible]	8.24	6.74
100[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	100[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.73	6.70
111[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	111[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.65	6.71
122[illegible]	110[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	116[illegible]	– [illegible]	8.18	6.72
129[illegible]	124[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129[illegible]	– [illegible]	9.75	6.81
105[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	105[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.11	6.68
107[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	106[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.25	6.72

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
104[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	104[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.65	6.80
123[illegible]	115[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121[illegible]	– [illegible]	9.66	6.82
112[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	112[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.55	6.71
104[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 2007	104[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.94	8.64
118[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	117[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.64	6.68
110[illegible]	101	Treas 8% 2009	110[illegible] †	– [illegible]	7.23	6.69
LONGS (over 15 years)						
96[illegible]	86[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	96[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.50	6.69
120[illegible]	109[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	120[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.47	6.69
121[illegible]	109[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	121[illegible] †	– [illegible]	7.41	6.69
90[illegible]	80[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	90[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.07	6.50
113[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	112[illegible] †	– [illegible]	7.09	6.67
109[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	109[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.07	6.70
114[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	114[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.98	6.61
122[illegible]	103[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	122[illegible]	– [illegible]	7.12	6.65
117[illegible]	101[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	117[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.84	6.57
UNDATED						
52[illegible]	43[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	52[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.65	
36[illegible]	30[illegible]	Treas 2½%	36[illegible] †	– [illegible]	6.79	
58[illegible]	49[illegible]	Consols 4%	58[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.87	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
189[illegible]	184[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	189[illegible] †		2.75	3.47
186[illegible]	180[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	186[illegible]	– [illegible]	2.94	3.41
120[illegible]	117[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	120[illegible]	– [illegible]	2.92	3.42
198[illegible]	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	198[illegible]	– [illegible]	3.26	3.40
179[illegible]	170[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	173[illegible]	– [illegible]	3.09	[illegible]
185[illegible]	176[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	185[illegible]	– [illegible]	3.12	3.36
154[illegible]	144[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	154[illegible]	– [illegible]	3.15	[illegible]
166[illegible]	153[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	166[illegible]	– [illegible]	3.16	[illegible]
160[illegible]	147[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	160[illegible]	– [illegible]	3.21	[illegible]
153[illegible]	122[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	153[illegible]	– [illegible]	3.23	3.36
131[illegible]	119[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	131[illegible]	– [illegible]	3.22	3.35

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 173673	Sep 97	118-14	118-14	118-02	118-05	2653
	Dec 97	117.31	117.31	117-16	117-22	57053
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 278028	Dec 97	102.70	102.78	102.60	102.68	111202
	Mar 98	101.90	101.93	101.90	101.93	591
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 118811	Dec 97	112.25	112.30	111.76	111.84	48948
	Mar 98	111.80	111.80	111.80	111.74	58
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	127.93	127.96	127.92	127.96	992
	Mar 98	126.99	127.01	126.97	127.01844	
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.58	92.59	92.56	92.56	15948
	Mar 98	92.59	92.59	92.55	92.56	19246
Previous open interest 635869	Jun 98	92.69	92.69	92.63	92.64	19881
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1563526	Oct 97	96.40	96.46	96.40	96.44	48566
	Mar 98	96.18	96.23	96.17	96.21	45700
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 374055	Dec 97	94.10	94.11	94.00	94.03	19068
	Mar 98	94.84	94.86	94.71	94.72	29686
Three Mth Euroyen	Mar 98	99.40	99.40	99.40	99.40	180
	Jun 98				99.34	0
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 149071	Dec 97	98.24	98.25	98.21	98.24	7609
	Mar 98	98.02	98.04	98.00	98.04	3789
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 32434	Dec 97	95.55	95.56	95.54	95.56	744
	Mar 98	95.49	95.50	95.48	95.50	355
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 65094	Dec 97	5170.0	5187.0	5086.0	5118.0	7674
	Mar 98				5162.0	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6[illegible] Week fixed: 7

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6[illegible] ; 3 mth 6[illegible] . Sell: 2 mth 6[illegible] ; 3 mth: 6[illegible] .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7-6[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 7 , close 7 .					
Local Authority Deps:	7[illegible]	n/a	7[illegible]	7[illegible]	7[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.54	n/a	5.59	5.69	5.86
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	3[illegible]-3	3[illegible]-3	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	3[illegible]-3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $320.70-321.00 **Close:** $321.00-321.50 **High:** $321.00-321.50
Low: $330.70-321.00 **AM:** $320.70 **PM:** $320.90

Krugerrand: $320.75-322.75 (£199.00-201.00)

Platinum: $436.00 (£270.30) **Silver:** $4.70 (£2.915) **Palladium:** $188.50 (£116.85)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Sept 23	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2395-3.2642	3.2587-3.2606	1[illegible]-1pr	3[illegible]-3pr
Brussels	59.350-59.860	59.708-58.791	21-16pr	59-53pr
Copenhagen	10.952-11.036	11.017-11.024	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0994-1.1062	1.1015-1.1033	12-6pr	35-29pr
Frankfurt	2.8765-2.8988	2.8937-2.8954	1-[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr
Lisbon	292.27-294.61	294.04-294.29	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Madrid	242.63-244.53	244.10-244.34	43-33pr	140-122pr
Milan	2806.9-2827.6	2822.6-2824.2	22-6pr	75-53pr
Montreal	2.2292-2.2398	2.2383-2.2398	0.73-0.67pr	1.37-1.29pr
New York	1.6068-1.6125	1.6120-1.6125	0.213-0.192pr	0.653-0.622pr
Oslo	11.652-11.713	11.701-11.710	[illegible]pr	3/8-[illegible]pr
Paris	9.6670-9.7400	9.7236-9.7306	3[illegible]-3pr	9[illegible]-9[illegible]pr
Stockholm	12.278-12.345	12.300-12.314	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	195.35-196.22	195.77-195.99	1[illegible]-1pr	3[illegible]-3[illegible]pr
Vienna	20.238-20.403	20.363-20.377	[illegible]pr	2-1[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.3607-2.3803	2.3753-2.3768	1[illegible]-1pr	3[illegible]-3[illegible]pr

Source: *Extel* *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3846-1.3856
Austria	12.65-12.66
Belgium (Com)	37.11-37.15
Canada	1.3883-1.3898
Denmark	6.8469-6.8489
France	6.0440-6.0465
Germany	1.7985-1.7992
Hong Kong	7.7412-7.7422
Ireland	1.4587-1.4607
Italy	1753.70-1755.20
Japan	121.40-121.45
Malaysia	3.0570-3.0620
Netherlands	2.0252-2.0257
Norway	7.2727-7.2787
Portugal	182.70-182.80
Singapore	1.5130-1.5140
Spain	151.54-151.64
Sweden	7.6640-7.6715
Switzerland	1.4755-1.4765

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6110-1.6137
Australia dollar	2.2307-2.2336
Bahrain dinar	0.5985-0.6125
Brazil real*	1.7616-1.7660
China yuan	13.155-13.455
Cyprus pound	0.8340-0.8530
Finland markka	8.4975-8.6385
Greece drachma	448.0-458.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.4711-12.4804
India rupee	57.70-59.00
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4810-0.4920
Malaysia ringgit	4.9257-4.9369
New Zealand dollar	2.5275-2.5319
Pakistan rupee	63.45 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7800-5.9150
Singapore dollar	2.4379-2.4410
S Africa rand (com)	7.4780-7.6470
U A E dirham	5.8325-5.9685

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	686	Ladbroke	5,400
ASDA Gp	12,100	Land Secs	1,600
Abbey Ntl	2,100	Legal & Gn	2,300
Allnce & Leic	1,000	Lloyds TSB	6,000
Allied Dom	1,900	LucasVarity	1,800
AB Foods	217	Marks Spr	4,400
BAA	2,200	Mercury Ast	456
BAT Inds	4,700	NatWst Bk	2,800
BG	3,400	Nat Grid	2,700
BOC	2,700	Nat Power	2,400
BP	4,000	Next	354
BSkyB	3,500	Orange	3,300
BTR	14,600	P & O	1,300
BT	16,300	Pearson	1,700
Bk of Scot	11,600	PowerGen	256
Barclays	2,500	Prudential	3,700
Bass	3,100	RMC	514
Blue Circle	1,700	Railtrack	1,700
Boots	1,800	Rank Group	7,300
BAe	1,400	Reckitt Col	409
BA	1,800	Reed Intl	2,500
British Land	1,500	Rentokil	6,300
Brit Steel	9,500	Reuters	1,900
Burmah Cstl	645	Rio Tinto	4,400
Cable Wire	5,800	Rolls Royce	6,100
Cadbury	3,100	Royal & Sun	3,500
Carlton Cms	2,000	Royal Bk Sct	4,200
Centrica	6,000	Safeway	8,100
Cm Union	492	Sainsbury	6,300
Dixons	2,500	Schroders	74
EMI	1,400	Scot & New	965
Energy Gp	699	Scot Power	2,100
Enterpr Oil	2,000	Svrn Trent	1,100
GKN	1,700	Shell Trans	30,900
GRE	3,800	Siebe	2,600
GUS	671	SmKl Bch	10,800
Gen Acc	2,700	Smiths Inds	1,100
Gen Elec	6,000	Std Chartd	2,500
Glaxo Well	4,800	TI Gp	1,600
Granada	2,900	Tate & Lyle	1,500
Grand Met	3,400	Tesco	6,400
Guinness	3,300	Thames W	266
HSBC	3,400	Tomkins	6,900
Halifax	3,700	Unilever	414
Hanson	1,100	Utd Utilities	2,500
Hays	794	Utd News	1,100
ICI	761	Vodafone	10,600
Imp Tob	2,300	Whitbread	924
Kingfisher	2,600	Wolseley	1,300
LASMO	6,900	Zeneca	3,500

WALL STREET

	Sep 23 midday	Sep 22 close
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

End of the journey still not in sight

Pressure is increasing on Margaret Beckett to reach a conclusion on the BA/American and P&O/Stena links, says **Philip Bassett**

Margaret Beckett's talks yesterday with Karel van Miert, European Competition Commissioner, inched Whitehall, Brussels and Washington further towards being in line on two key competition policy decisions — on British Airways' planned US alliance and the proposed link-up between the main cross-Channel ferry companies.

Even before yesterday's meeting, Whitehall was not expecting the President of the Board of Trade's talks with Mr Van Miert to reach a sudden solution to the long-running sagas over planes and ferries. "If we could find an accommodation, that would be terrific," said one senior official. "But we're just stuck in the middle."

Mrs Beckett's critics — and on her competition decisions, she inevitably has them — don't quite see it that way. They charge her privately with abdicating her responsibility on competition policy and practice, of being too ready to fall into line behind Brussels and Mr Van Miert's decisions. Mrs Beckett's officials emphasise the delicacy and difficulty of trying to resolve complex issues with big commercial consequences.

Labour came into office in May committed to reforming competition law in the UK, and Mrs Beckett has now put out for consultation not just draft proposals to do so but a full Bill in draft form, which is largely being well received. But the Government's drive to reform the framework of UK competition law and bring it into line with Europe — a move welcomed by British business eager to cut back on duplication — does not of course obviate tricky decisions on individual merger plans from specific companies.

Of the two examined by Mrs Beckett and the Commissioner yesterday in talks, which also took in wider aspects of competition policy and law in London and Brussels, the battle over BA's planned alliance with American Airlines is the larger issue.

The bare bones of the argument are that the European Commission looks set to veto the BA-AA link-up unless the two companies surrender 353 weekly take-off and landing slots at Heathrow. Brussels argues that the proposed alliance, which provides for extensive co-operation on flight schedules and fare-setting, would give the two firms unfair market advantage, in that they would control more than 60 per cent of flights between the UK and the US.

For its part, BA argues that the slots are a vital asset of its business, and, if it is to give them up, it should be allowed to sell them, or be recompensed for them. American says it will accept the recommendations of the UK's Office of Fair Trading that 168 slots should be ceded — but not the number sought by Brussels.

Neither side is budging, though with time pressure now on — the airlines want the deal ratified by Washington, London and Brussels by November in order to allow schedules to put in place for next summer's peak business period — talk behind the scenes is turning to prospects of some kind of agreement.

On ferries, the argument is at least mainly domestic. Pushed by competition from the Channel Tunnel, P&O, the shipping and property group, is planning to merge its cross-Channel ferry operations with Stena, the Swedish company, saving some £75 million out of total costs of £280 million, in a move which would take two ships off the Dover-Calais route and lead to the loss of 400 jobs.

Brussels is concerned that the link-up, which would give the two companies around 40 per cent of the market, would operate separately from the companies' other activities, and in particular would not be cross-subsidised by them. Mr Van Miert is indicating it will veto the link-up unless the companies make concessions.

The Commission's tough stance on ferries has prompted criticism of Mrs Beckett because it has delayed publication of the UK Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on the planned link-up, which the Department of Trade and Industry has had since April. Mrs Beckett has been accused of hiding behind Brussels's skirts, with both companies wanting to get on with their plans.

Whitehall is warding off such attacks, insisting that it is not so much a matter of chiming in with Brussels's timing on either planes or ferries, but more a case of wanting to get the decisions right — right for the companies concerned, right for Europe, right for UK competition policy and principally right for consumers.

Yesterday's talks, fulsomely described by the DTI as "constructive", are far from the last word on either issue. All sides are sticking to their guns. But all sides would like the cases to be resolved. In such cases, it is axiomatic for all those involved to deny hotly any possibility of an agreement to resolve the issues, usually at the very moment such agreements are being struck. With time pressures on, the timing may look right for just such a move.

How to become a Richer guru and actually boost business

Chris Ayres on the way a hi-fi retailer became a leading management consultant

Basil Fawlty would have hated Julian Richer. The 38-year-old founder of the Richer Sounds hi-fi chain would not have allowed Basil to bully his waiters, mention the war, or shout at his customers.

Richer would have told the ratty hotel manager to hire a Rolls-Royce for his staff or to give them free holidays as a reward for hard work, and he would have made Basil measure the performance of his hotel by customer service.

Such schemes have not only helped Richer to build a personal fortune of more than £50 million through his own retail chain, but have also made him famous in the world of management training. His advice has been sought by some of Britain's leading companies, including Asda, Sears and Halifax.

Richer, whose hi-fi shops business holds the world record for having an outlet with the highest sales per square foot, recently put his maverick ideas on management style into a book called *The Richer Way*.

The book is becoming mandatory reading for holidaying executives — Rod Aldridge, chairman of the £500 million outsourcing group Capita, was recently spotted clutching a copy as he left the country for his annual break.

The success of the book encouraged Richer to set up Richer Consulting late last year. As a newcomer in a sector already oversupplied with firms aiming to sell advice, this one is making a rapid impact. Already it has secured contracts with a diverse range of customers, from tiny unlisted businesses to multinational corporations.

"We are interested in how to motivate people, measure service and reward it. Then we can create an enjoyable experience for the customer," says Kate Donaghy, who set up the consultancy with Richer. "Many companies feel they are working financially but missing something with their customers. We have worked with a leisure park which had found that people's jobs were unclear, and we helped them sort that out. Then we put in measurement techniques for how people were paid."

Kate Donaghy teamed up with Julian Richer after she listened to him give a talk on management to staff at Asda

Donaghy, a former lawyer, became interested in management after founding a headhunting business, Richmond and Co, in the early 1990s. She met Richer after listening to him give a talk on management to staff at Asda. His ideas and enthusiasm inspired her to write to him giving him her support, and within weeks they had met and become friends.

But Donaghy is not a typical Richer Consulting employee. All the company's eight directors are former Richer Sounds sales assistants, and many of them, like Richer himself, have not been to university.

Richer avoided higher education because he found he could make more money from selling hi-fis than going to his college in Bristol.

He left school with three A levels and went on to borrow £20,000 to open his first Richer Sounds outlet at London Bridge. The company soon became financially successful and renowned for its customer service. When the business's resources grew, Richer invited new employees to three-day training sessions at his home in York. During the training, they could play tennis, badminton and snooker, and also had access to a cinema, a disco and a swimming pool.

In spite of Richer's success, Donaghy is aware that many management techniques are still seen as gimmicks. This has led satirical television shows such as *The Day Today* and *The Saturday Night Armistice* to parody gurus such as Richer.

In one sketch from *The Day Today*, employees learnt how to deal with stress by having to look after a live pig which was released into their office. In *The Saturday Night Armistice* unwitting employees from an unnamed company were sent to a spoof conference to play surreal and pointless games.

"We do fun things," Donaghy says. "You can call them gimmicks or whatever you want, but under the surface there is improved customer service. For example, Richer Sounds has a league of customer service, and if you come top of the league you get the use of the Rolls-Royce for a week. But it's also the recognition of staff that's important."

Richer Consulting advises on all aspects of customer service, from strategy and planning to measurement. It also helps customers to set up reward schemes, suggestion schemes and to improve internal communication.

But Donaghy recognises that customer service also means more than just a friendly sales assistant. "We believe in the integrity of the product and the processes and friendliness with which it is delivered," she says.

"It's also about the quality, reliability and serviceability of the product. There is no point in someone telling you, with a big smile on their face, that they can't give you the product you want."

ANTHONY HARRIS

There is no such thing as a free capital market

It has been an ideal week for the last appearance of this sceptical column. First Milton Friedman, the high priest of market economics, denounced economic and monetary union as fatal to the whole EU enterprise, and called for the abolition of the International Monetary Fund, which, he said, has had no *raison d'être* since the collapse of Bretton Woods in 1971.

The IMF is trying to invent a new role for itself: *the liberator of capital markets*. But before this was even made official, George Soros, the great practitioner, denounced free capital markets as the source of crises. But according to Dr Mahathir Mohamad, of Malaysia, crises are caused by currency traders — George Soros in particular. Soros evened the score by denouncing Dr Mahathir.

All good clean fun, you may think; but there are serious points here. The arguments about EMU are familiar to any reader of these pages; but those about free markets in currencies and capital are newish. The free international flow of investment capital has, as the International Monetary Fund argues, been a great agent of development, setting up new industries both in the third world and in bombed-out ex-Communist economies. This is direct investment — the building of factories and sinking of mines; it might have taken a generation or more if left to domestic saving and lending as its only sources of finance.

Free trade in securities looks like part of the same picture: access to foreign wealth, but for native enterprise. True: but these flows have also created obstinate problems, and not just in the third world. Even the strongest, Germany and Switzerland, have been driven to invent special taxes to discourage inflows: they threated inflation, or currency over-valuation, or both. Singapore and Malaysia have had similar problems. And when the tide turns to ebb, panic may set in, as the Mexicans, the Thais and many others know by now. Markets may be free, but they can be costly.

So: direct investment is a blessing, but the global securities market a curse? That is what Soros seems to suggest; but it is too simple. Direct investors naturally demand control, and are often accused of insensitivity to local needs, or even of neo-colonialism. Cut off stock market flows, and you may hamper the growth of local enterprise. And there is a further complication: the important crises have occurred only in countries which were trying to manage their exchange rates. It *was not George Soros who* caused the sterling crisis of 1992, but Britain's membership of the ERM. Nearly all the recent crises have been in countries pegged to the dollar.

And currency crises are not the only problem. The speculative excesses that have now boiled over in Thailand happened because local developers could raise finance at cheap US or Japanese interest rates, with no apparent exchange risk. Rates were low because first the US and then Japan cut them to ease domestic banking crises. Thus policies that may be necessary in one economy may prove ruinous in another. This is Friedman's fundamental point against the EMU project.

> Nearly all recent crises have been in countries pegged to the dollar

Perhaps the answer is that market problems demand a market solution — not an International Monetary Fund package (Friedman again), but the risk involved when exchange rates are allowed to float. The point is not to create risk, but to make inherent risk apparent. A direct investor may get his timing or location wrong: a fluctuating exchange rate will preach caution. A foreign stockholder may imagine that he can always sell out: exchange risk underlines the losses that could be involved. Economic development depends on people ready to take risk: but it also demands that they should be wary. So the free movement of capital will work best only when exchange rates are free to move, too. (This would leave George Soros without any profitable crises; but the man is a philanthropist, after all.)

And so: a fond (though not final) farewell to my readers. Future columns will be longer, but fewer.

Bank deposit

JOHN MCFARLANE, the high-flyer whose departure from Standard Chartered surprised us all in February, has bounced nicely. The man who left because, as chairman Patrick Gillam put it then: "John now feels that he can make a more strategic role elsewhere", has done just that, re-emerging as chief executive officer and pretty well lord of all he surveys at Australia and New Zealand Bank, one of the big four down under. McFarlane, in one of those careers that makes me wonder why I persist with my own, was drafted in to Standard Chartered from Citibank in 1993 in the wake of the Indian scandal. He now whizzes off to Melbourne. At the age of 50.

We always thought that McFarlane left Standard Chartered after being tipped the wink that he would not get the chief executive's job. His former colleagues were being coy on whether he received a payoff to compensate for this crushing disappointment, but he did leave with options worth £1.5 million potentially. It's a dog's life in investment banking.

Patrick Gillam saw a more strategic role for McFarlane

☐ *IT WAS always a misconceived idea of the strictly mutual Britannia Building Society to try to squash Jon Massey, publisher of* The Carpetbagger's Accomplice, *by kicking him out and closing his account. All this achieved was to give him more prominence than some might say he deserves. Now Massey has put two fingers up to them by dedicating the third edition of the booklet to the Britannia.*

Run riot

FROM Bank tube station, cross Cornhill and cut down to Lombard Street. Can you see a "dull grey office block"? Down towards Cannon Street, by my reckoning, which probably makes it to the east of St Swithins Lane. The actual dealing room is dingy and low-ceilinged (aren't they all?) containing 15, maybe 20, traders. The only other clue I have is the carpet, "cheap blue and tiled". Not much to go on, but if you can identify this foreign exchange dealer, you know where Jon Stock did the research for his first novel *The Riot Act*.

Stock, a stranger to the world of the City, was smuggled into two forex dealing rooms last year as part of his research for the thriller, published this week. He is therefore honour-bound not to reveal which dealers, but one at least matches the above description. "A mate of mine let me come in and sit on the dealing room floor for a while to pick up on the banter," he says.

His central character makes a similar journey into the unknown. A Swampy-like environmental protester, he is forced to shave off his dreadlocks and take up a job in the City, for reasons too complex to detain us here. The idea came from a genuine character Stock met on his explorations, a middle-class drop-out activist who is now a successful forex dealer — and is now worried that his past life will one day be revealed.

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

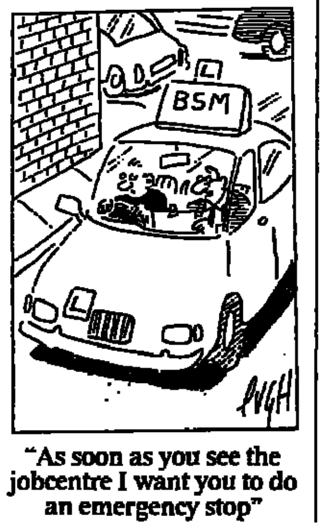
☐ *OH DEAR. Oh dear. I really shouldn't be allowed to write about sport. Damion Griffiths, bond dealer at Cantor Fitzgerald, has contacted me, more in sorrow than in anger, to point out that Rob Kitchin, one of his colleagues, is not only a scrum half, rather than fly half as I suggested yesterday, but he has also not been posted abroad. Indeed he was sitting but 20 feet away from Griffiths when we spoke. Sorry.*

As I reported, Cantors has pulled out of this weekend's Reuters rugby sevens. The company's success in previous tournaments has given rise to endless rumours about ringers being slipped in, which Griffiths indignantly denies and puts down to envy. This year's no-show is blamed on a series of injuries sustained at tournaments abroad — these guys take their rugby seriously. Plus "a certain amount of apathy" and the rival attractions of something called the Ryder Cup.

Touché

DEPRESSING, isn't it, when highly paid consultants screw up? My day was ruined by the news of Deloitte & Touche's ill-advised decision to revamp their own pension scheme in the US. Deloitte has a good reputation there as pensions adviser. Its employees were promised improvements in pensions benefits and almost all 14,000 signed up. Afterwards they got their calculators out — and found that payouts would fall by as much as 70 per cent. Staff are furious, and head bean-counters deeply embarrassed. God knows what the clients think.

MARTIN WALLER



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Equities close near day's lows

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
491½	407½	Allied Domecq	473½	-2½	5.7	14.3
626	385	Bulmer (HP)	410	.	4.4	11.4
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	46½	..	9.1	11.6
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	975	.	1.7	24.1
631	425½	Grand Met	580½	-5½	3.2	18.9
627	424	Guinness	576½	-7½	3.4	15.7
380	292	Highland Dist	292½		3.6	13.7
336	213	Matthew Clark	240	.	12.5	7.2
109¾	52½	Mrychan Wt	60½		6.4	14.9
2318¾	1462½	SA Breweries	2318¾	+56¾	1.6	..

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521¼	918¾	ABN-AMRO	1262½	-6¼	2.6	17.8
971	710	Abbey Natl	882	-13½	3.9	14.4
673	532½	Alliance & Leic	665	-4	3.1	15.6
563	388½	Allied Irish	517½	+3½	3.5	14.7
511	363½	Aus New Z	510½	-½	3.7	..
4706½	2875	Bank America	4687½	-16¼		
462½	291½	Bank Scotland	462½	+5½	2.2	14.1
1552½	978½	Barclays	1523½	-20	2.7	14.5
764	517½	Bk of Ireland	724	+4	2.7	16.0
8828¾	6006½	Citicorp	8337½	-112½		
1759¾	1268¾	Commerzbk	1675	-12½	2.8	
862½	559¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	675	+3½	0.6	
4321¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	4003½	-16¾	1.6	
1300	759¾	Espirito Santo	1278¾		2.9	
947½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	693	+2¾	0.6	
2269½	1272½	HSBC	1938½	-32	3.0	15.7
2258½	1241	HSBC HK	1849½	-34	3.1	15.0
783	696½	Halifax	710½	-12½	2.6	23.9
610	483½	Irish Perm	565		2.7	15.6
789	424	Lloyds TSB	763½	-6½	2.3	22.2
999½	669½	Nat Aust Bk	993½	-5½	4.0	13.9
896½	663½	Nat West	859½	-10½	4.4	13.6
665	508	Royal Bk Scot	639	-½	3.8	13.8
1093½	681	Stand Chart	847½		2.3	14.8
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		2.0	
403¾	315½	Westpac	403½	+4	3.7	
373½	284	Woolwich	308½	-7½	3.2	18.3

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	717½	Bass	854	-10½	3.7	16.0
68¼	43½	Brk for the Bdr	54½		4.1	11.5
205	142½	Burtonwood Brw	152½		4.9	14.2
156½	121½	City Centre Rest	141	-2	2.2	21.9
744½	575½	Compass Gp	647½	+½	1.7	23.8
305	250	Eldridge P 'A'	301½	.	2.5	15.5
256	221	Enterprise Inns	256		3.4	18.2
485	412	Fuller Sm 'A'	417½	-2½	3.0	14.5
586	422½	Greenalls Grp	451½		4.4	11.2
770	642	Greene King	716		2.9	15.4
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	168	+11½	4.8	
285	218¾	Groupe Chez Ger	283½	+1	1.3	27.8
298½	261	Hardy Hanson	265	.	5.2	11.8
3850	2875	Holt J	2675		2.8	19.8
78	63	Inn Business	65½		3.1	10.5
357	327	Mansfield	339		2.7	14.3
315½	252	Mrson Thmp	291½	-1½	3.4	10.1
615	502½	Morland	507½	..	3.2	13.0
266½	210	Old Eng Pub	253½	-3	1.0	32.6
47½	18½	Paramount	22½			
820½	527½	PizzaExpress	759	+31½	0.6	
437½	332½	Ramsdens (H)	360		1.7	31.9
379½	262½	Regent Inns	336½	-3	1.0	32.2
130	102½	SFI	117½	-4½	0.8	25.0
768½	627	Scot & New	727½	-15	3.7	15.6
305	248½	Vaux Group	270½		5.0	12.2
1524	1105	Wetherspoon JD	1497½	-17½	0.5	
863	738½	Whitbread	784½	-10	3.8	14.4
706½	554	Wolvrhmptn D	561	+1½	3.9	12.2
377	279½	Yates Bros	370	+2½	1.0	29.6
702½	615	Young 'A'	697½		2.7	27.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
200½	162¼	Car Group	189½		2.8	20.4
139½	117½	Caverdale	134	+½	3.5	7.8
100	61½	Charles Sidney	73½	...	5.5	10.3
50¼	45½	Cook (DC)	47	+½	6.4	6.3
121	90½	Day Motors	106½		3.7	6.7
134½	102½	Dermans B	102½		3.4	9.4
400	217	Diploma	245	-1½	7.4	8.3
494	387½	Electrocompnts	458	-7½	2.1	25.8
226½	117½	Eurodis Elect	157½	+½	4.0	30.8
97½	76½	European Mot	91½	+½	7.7	8.1
300	213	Evans Halshaw	287½		7.3	..
55½	30½	File Indexit	34½		7.8	8.9
397½	312½	[illegible]	324½	+3	2.9	
34½	24½	Gardiner	25	-½	4.8	9.2
79½	57½	[illegible]	68		2.8	11.1
110	82½	Gowrings	106½	-1	3.7	17.5
15¾	11	HR Owen	14¼		5.6	13.3
103	20½	Harold	22½	..		2.1
272½	232½	Harris (Philip)	264½		4.7	10.2
334	284½	Headlam	333½	+½	2.3	30.1
165	145	Holders Tech	165		4.9	13.5
240½	149½	ISA Intl	148½		5.5	11.7
308½	240½	Inchcape	277½		4.4	18.3
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	67½		4.7	8.5
311	214¼	Kwik-Fit	310½		2.4	16.9
450½	316½	Lex Service	451½	-1	4.5	13.6
122	100	Lookers	100	...	10.0	7.1
9	5½	Middlesex	8		1.6	14.0
41½	10½	Midstates	15½		3.9	
472	180	[illegible]	253	-2	4.2	8.6
166½	114½	Northamber	164	+1½	7.1	9.8
352¾	305½	Partco	311½	-3½	3.3	16.4
394¼	254¼	Pendragon	269½		4.7	11.9
223½	172½	Perry Gp	179		6.6	7.8
751	448	Premier Farnell	529½	-1	2.8	19.5
152½	122½	Quicks Group	138½	+1	6.8	8.7
357	307½	REA	312	-4	1.6	38.5
2½	1½	Reece	1½	..	...	50.2
28	17½	Ronson	16	..	2.0	
4	1¼	Ross Gp	2½			
109½	78½	Rytand	91	+1	5.6	8.6
38	24	SEP Indl	26½	+½	7.3	12.2
92½	25	Sallee	27½		5.5	
415½	283½	Time Products	291½		5.1	11.1
347	185½	Trust Motor Grp	185½		7.7	6.1
540	328	UMECO	340	+2½	2.0	22.1
90½	59	United Drums Gp	87			18.9
352½	267½	Vardy (Reg)	290	+3½	3.2	13.8
685	498½	WF Elect	590		3.2	20.2
41	29½	Whitworth	30½	+1	3.5	8.7
172½	111½	Wyko	149½		2.5	
157½	119½	Young (H)	157½	+1½	3.4	13.4

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	400		1.6	21.1
328	232	Ascot Hldgs	238½		2.7	39.8
917	703	Broken Hill	709½	+1	3.2	17.3
289	180½	BTR	238	-5	4.6	8.3
601½	462	BAT	524½	-6	6.2	11.2
60½	49½	Brierley Inv	52½	-½	9.0	8.6
396	182	Cookson	254½		4.4	15.7
229½	197½	Cosalt	213½		6.0	9.2
402½	355½	DCC	381½	..	2.3	14.2
312½	243½	Gallaher	278½	+½	8.9	8.4
141	115½	Grampian Hdg	129½		5.8	11.3
140½	101½	Hanson Cntd	118	+3	9.6	12.8
667½	423½	Hutch Whamp	552½	-½	2.2	32.8
438½	362	Imperial Tob	365½		6.8	7.3
523½	301	Jardine Math	465½	-21	3.3	17.7
158½	104	Lonrho	113		5.3	11.8
175½	141½	McLeod Russel	159	+½	5.4	12.6
457½	388½	Powell Duffryn	427½	+13½	7.3	12.1
197½	153½	Staveley	168		6.7	14.6
604½	448½	Swire Pacific	471½	-13½	3.0	
397½	327½	TT Group	375		2.7	15.2
336½	252½	Tomkins	329½	-1½	3.8	14.7
210	165	Unidare	202½		8.0	10.5
498	369½	Wardle Storeys	370		6.6	13.8
387½	285½	Wassall	349½	+2½	2.5	15.5
166½	122½	Whitecroft	124½		5.0	18.1
375½	294½	Williams	362½	-3	4.9	16.1

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1187½	897	Siebe	1160	-2	1.4	22.2
227½	105½	Sb Hundrad	115	+1	5.4	2.6
901	708½	Smiths Ind	885	-10	2.4	21.5
737½	595	Spirax-Sarco	682½		2.6	17.7
303½	238½	Sterling Ind	261		4.8	12.7
636	450	TI	607½	-5	2.8	19.3
120½	101½	Tinsley (E)	110½	..	6.9	10.4
120½	92½	Transtec	106½	+1	2.9	14.4
206½	144½	Triplex Lloyd	202½	.	4.3	15.3
222½	150½	Unicorn Ind	222½	..	3.5	
77½	48½	Utd Inds	61		4.9	17.6
273½	168½	Vickers	206½	-5	4.4	12.9
10½	8¼	Villers Grp	9			...
712½	505	Vitec	599	...	2.6	11.3
952	742	Vosper Thorny	820	-1½	4.0	13.2
350	213½	Wagon Indl	245	+1	6.1	10.7
291	207½	Weir	287½	+2½	3.6	14.0
250½	179½	Wellington Hldg	179½		5.6	10.4
33	23	Wellman	27½		8.3	8.8
61½	45½	Wescol	57½	+½	2.4	19.1
730	525	Whatman	727½	-2½	2.4	21.1
65½	30½	Widney	33½		13.1	

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
140	97	Adwest	135		7.2	10.9
197	172	Airflow Stream	173½		5.8	11.0
757	565	Avon Rubber	605		4.1	12.5
287	227½	Bostrom	287	+3	1.1	14.2
123½	96	Britax	121½	+½	3.6	15.7
830	657½	First Tech	830		1.6	21.8
1327½	907	GKN	1321	+13	2.4	..
4321½	3237½	General Mtr	4159¾	-153½	3.0	..
583½	395	Hedys	399		4.9	9.6
2168½	1549½	Honda Motor	2159½	-8¼	0.3	
455½	312½	Laird	456	+1	3.6	12.4
228	180	LucasVarity	223½	-1½	2.2	17.1
178½	131	Mayflower	175	+1	1.7	24.7
172½	127½	Syltone	145½		5.5	10.6
179	123	T & N	168½	+3	4.6	..
86½	26½	Toad	27½			
339½	238½	Trinity Hldgs	280½	..	4.0	13.0

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
577	454	AB Food	552	-12	2.2	18.3
311½	271½	Acatos & Hutch	296½		4.4	24.9
48½	34	Albert Fisher	36½		12.9	8.8
320	275	Banks (S C)	289		5.0	10.3
450	322	Barr (AG)	445	-1½	3.0	15.9
43	30	Bensons Crisp	31½		4.5	7.8
402	244	Booker	304½	+6	10.1	
82½	20½	Borthwick	87½		2.6	39.2
230	90	CPL Aromas	109	-12	5.5	29.2
627½	454	Cadbury-Schwpt	564	+1	3.6	15.3
335	280	Carr's Milling	323		4.3	10.6
81½	57½	Cavaghan	63½	..	7.3	11.8
287½	203½	Cranswick	242½		6.3	12.4
274½	195½	Dairy Crest Group	263	+1	4.7	11.7
363½	217½	Dalgety	282½	-1½	6.5	
52½	30½	Daniels S	40	..	1.1	22.2
407½	263½	Devro	385	-½	2.9	17.1
133½	79½	Finlay (James)	117	-2	3.9	21.1
357½	250	Geest	357½	+5	3.7	16.5
26	19½	Global	21		3.9	11.2

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THE TIMES

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Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Allders	Ret Gen	
2	Britt Allcroft	Media	
3	Albright & Wil	Chemicals	
4	Bowthorpe	Electronic	
5	Metalrax	Engin'ing	
6	Hse of Fraser	Ret Gen	
7	Pilkington	Bld Mats	
8	BICC	Electronic	
9	Watmough	Print Pap	
10	T & N	Eng, Veh	
11	Harrisn Crs	Div Inds	
12	Alexon	Ret Gen	
13	Gr Portland	Property	
14	Fairey Group	Electronic	
15	Travis Perkins	Bld Mats	
16	Tarmac	Bld Mats	
17	MEPC	Property	
18	Alphameric	Sup Serv	
19	Smithkline	Pharm'cals	
20	Finelist Grp	Distrib's	
21	XCL	Oil & Gas	
22	Coats Viyella	Textiles	
23	Essex Furn	Ret Gen	
24	Granada	Leisure	
25	MAID	Media	
26	Caird Gp	Sup Serv	
27	GRE	Insurance	
28	Headway	Engin'ing	
29	Unigate	Food Man	
30	Amberley Gp	Chemicals	
31	Yorks Grp	Chemicals	
32	Bk of Ireland	Banks	
33	Slough Est	Property	
34	Morrison (W)	Ret Food	
35	Phonelink	Media	
36	Hays	Sup Serv	
37	MMT Comp	Sup Serv	
38	Caradon	Bld Mats	
39	Austin Rd	Ret Gen	
40	Telemetrix	Electronic	
41	Westpac	Banks	
42	Bemrose	Print Pap	
43	Booker	Food Man	
44	Alendra W	Textiles	

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total

Five winners receive £400: P Wood, Wirral; M Gadd, Maidstone; K Greenhay, Tetbury, Glos; D Arbery, Pontyclun, Mid Glam; V Ward, Greyshott, Surrey

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	55½	Jerome (S)	56½		6.6	10.8
380	293	Jones Stroud	308½	+2½	4.5	14.7
159½	110	Lambert	143½		7.0	9.6
195	120	Lamont	130		12.3	14.7
173	105	Leeds	106½	.	8.0	8.0
38½	21½	Leslie Wise Gp	22		12.8	16.8
62	47	Lyles (S)	48		2.0	
16½	7½	Marling	16½	.	1.5	62.9
8½	3½	PEX	4			7.3
307½	165½	Parkland	184½		4.5	8.0

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension † Ex dividend ‡ Ex scrip ▲ Ex rights ⁘ Ex all § Ex capital distribution * Figures or report awaited ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing. 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	138.98	148.10†	+ 0.20	
Do NAV to Jun 20	136.83	136.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	109.15	116.75	- 0.20	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		
Cash	967.07	967.86†		5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	361.70	384.80†		1.74
British Growth	82.81	88.56	- 0.10	1.43
UK Small Cos	76.48	81.75†		0.49
FTSE 250 Index	97.04	103.78	- 0.10	2.11
Geared UK Index	2277.70	2404.51†	- 18.00	5.25
Income Funds				
UK Equity Inc #	112.82	120.65†	+ 0.10	4.24
Corp Bd	79.64	82.27	+ 0.08	
Monthly Inc	42.71	45.53†		6.41
International Funds				
American Gen	308.10	326.00	- 0.70	
American Strat	282.01	301.61	+ 2.10	
JG US Index	2350.69	2476.83†		
European Gen	332.20	351.30	- 3.80	4.00
European Strat	147.85	158.12	- 0.10	0.64
Japan Gen	130.60	138.20	+ 0.40	
Japan Strat	44.00	46.42	- 0.20	
Asia Pacific	91.23	97.42	+ 0.10	
Pacific Strat	148.85	159.18	- 2.20	
Greater China	284.46	304.23	- 7.20	
Latin America	131.49	140.62	+ 1.10	
Int Growth	184.11	196.89	+ 0.20	
Balanced Europe	152.90	158.40		2.26
Global Strategy	51.66	55.24	+ 0.02	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	829.10	882.10	- 2.00	2.39
General Inc	675.70	718.90	- 2.50	2.39
UK Growth Acc	573.70	610.40	- 2.10	2.26
UK Growth Inc	366.70	390.20	- 1.40	2.26
Higher Inc Acc #	1019.90	1085.00	- 1.10	4.55
Higher Inc Inc #	535.00	569.20	- 0.60	4.56
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	227.30	240.00	- 0.20	5.38
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.65	99.97	- 0.03	5.38
Nth America	449.70	478.50	+ 1.40	
Europe	456.20	485.40	+ 1.00	0.01
Brit Excell	114.30	121.60	- 0.70	2.41
Brit Fndmtls Acc	139.70	148.70	- 0.10	4.44
Brit Fndmtls Inc	89.69	95.42	- 0.05	4.44
Global Opps	118.30	125.90	+ 0.40	
Balanced Acc	74.86	79.64	- 0.08	2.19
Balanced Inc	69.18	73.60	- 0.08	2.19
Japan Acc	39.64	42.18	+ 0.20	
Pac Basin Acc	375.90	399.90		1.27
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	139.90	147.90†	+ 0.30	6.17
High Inc Equity	217.40	232.50		4.34
Worldwide Bond	271.60	288.00†	- 0.70	3.43
American Growth	538.10	574.70	- 1.00	0.29
Asian Pacific	311.90	333.60	- 3.60	0.41
Assets & Earnings	339.20	362.80	- 0.60	2.58
Euro Capital Acc	249.90	267.30	+ 1.60	0.75
Extra Inc	43.63	46.41†		8.96
General	311.00	330.80†	- 0.40	2.97
Global Opps	83.99	89.35†	+ 0.21	0.36
Japan	92.10	98.50	+ 0.38	
Managed Inc	52.12	56.45†	+ 0.02	4.06
Mastertrust	191.90	205.20	- 0.10	1.08
US Emerging Cos	231.10	247.20	+ 0.60	
Ethical	86.77	92.81	- 0.06	1.99
International	154.90	164.80		0.53
Dividend & Growth	80.11	85.72	- 0.02	4.10
Global Grth & Sec	77.94	83.37	+ 0.53	2.43
Latin America	99.17	105.50†	+ 0.40	0.64
Capital Reserve	151.50	151.50	+ 0.20	4.61
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
H&P UK Growth	110.50	117.50	- 0.20	2.01
Equity Income #	152.50	162.20†	+ 0.40	2.72
Extra Income #	291.50	310.00†	+ 1.20	6.54
Smaller Cos	104.00	111.20†		2.90

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	86.66	92.19	+ 0.06	1.35
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	176.00	187.30†	+ 0.20	1.50
FTSE 100	129.70	137.70	- 0.20	1.81
Smllr Cos Inc	59.92	63.91	+ 0.06	2.28
UK Growth	504.90	539.90	+ 0.70	1.62
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	238.80	250.20	- 0.20	0.09
F East Grth Acc	265.80	282.80	- 5.20	0.71
Far East Grth	157.50	167.50	- 3.10	0.71
Euro Grth Inc	241.10	256.10†	+ 0.60	0.72
-do- Accum	264.00	279.40	+ 0.60	0.72
Japan	117.70	124.30	+ 0.20	
-do- Accum	119.00	125.80	+ 0.30	
Japan Spec Sits	55.11	58.38	+ 0.10	
Worldwide	226.20	240.10		0.74
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	183.30	193.50	+ 1.50	
Amer Smllr Cos	190.70	202.40	+ 0.90	
Eastern	258.60	277.30	- 3.10	0.30
Equity Income #	130.30	138.40	- 0.20	4.00
European Growth	489.70	520.00	+ 3.00	0.80
Europe	452.80	483.20	+ 0.30	0.80
German Growth	110.10	116.70	- 0.20	0.50
Global Bond	73.92	77.73	+ 0.12	4.60
Global Growth	177.60	188.40	+ 1.00	0.40
Japan Growth	152.00	161.10	+ 0.60	
Japan Science	103.80	109.90	- 0.40	
Korea Trust	46.12	50.13	- 1.88	
Portfolio	173.30	184.50†		2.00
-do- Accum	334.60	356.30	+ 0.10	2.00
UK Growth	129.00	137.70	- 0.10	3.00
UK Smaller Cos	115.10	124.90	+ 0.30	1.90
Select Managers	98.33	105.10	+ 0.30	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Grth Port Inc	109.20	116.20	+ 1.10	
Special Opps Inc	74.17	78.90†	- 1.60	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	181.03	188.57	- 0.17	1.10
-do- Accum	211.85	220.68	- 0.20	1.10
Smaller Cos	176.29	183.63	- 0.05	0.39
Higher Yield #	68.48	71.33	+ 0.02	3.74
American Gth Inc	138.31	144.07†	- 0.59	
European Growth	205.79	214.36†	- 2.34	
-do- Accum	210.19	218.95	- 2.39	
Mngd Ptfolio Inc	63.10	65.73†	- 0.30	1.27
-do- Accum	66.13	68.88	- 0.31	1.27
Intl Spec Opps	209.32	218.04	- 2.12	
Pacific Grth	151.41	157.71	- 4.88	
UK General #	120.64	125.66	- 0.09	2.83
-do- Accum #	132.86	138.39	- 0.10	2.83
Japan	48.86	50.90	+ 0.17	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	107.27	111.09†	+ 0.27	7.61
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.66	66.70		6.27
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	210.10	220.60	+ 0.30	1.52
UK Growth	263.10	276.30†	+ 0.30	1.59
UK Income	180.90	189.90	- 0.10	3.66
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	275.70	290.20	- 0.70	1.36
-do- Income Dist	152.30	161.40	- 0.40	3.10
-do- Accum	506.80	537.10	- 1.50	3.10
Gilt & Fxd Int	42.62	44.78†	- 0.06	6.07
Growth Units	319.20	341.30†	- 0.60	1.71
Bond	184.40	193.90†	- 0.20	6.00
Intl Growth	253.70	269.90	- 0.30	0.17
North American	327.60	347.70		
Far East	265.70	284.20	- 0.90	0.68
UK Smaller Cos	248.60	265.90	+ 0.50	1.08
European	117.60	125.00	- 0.50	0.40
Japanese Growth	36.93	39.13	- 0.08	
High Income	263.40	281.60†	- 0.70	3.61
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	293.30	310.10†	- 2.50	0.10
European Inc	121.70	129.30†		1.77
Smaller Cos (4-1)	109.60	116.60†	- 0.10	1.84

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Sec Inc	162.52	163.18	+ 2.23	8.76
Fxd Int Sec Acc	169.90	170.58	+ 2.32	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	912.16	925.94	+ 12.86	3.76
Investment Acc	4344.24	4409.90	+ 61.78	
Fixed Int Inc	133.53	134.07	+ 1.93	8.65
Fixed Int Acc	259.62	260.66	+ 3.75	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	94.93	99.88	..	5.02
Beck Bio-Tech	45.06	48.64		
Acorn Ethical Tst	220.53	231.58		0.40
City Fin Assets	90.56	96.09		1.78
City Fin Intl	96.38	101.71		0.06
Friars Hse Cap	358.54	379.30		1.64
Buckley Wld Grth	157.15	165.60†		
Share Utilities	77.81	79.53	+ 0.05	4.38
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	64.48	68.41	- 0.14	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Grth	101.70	108.19	+ 0.13	
Dragon Growth	64.94	69.45	- 0.26	0.62
Equity High Inc	110.25	116.66†	- 0.05	3.55
-do- Accum	165.52	175.15	- 0.07	3.55
Extra Income Inc	28.52	30.00	+ 0.04	6.34
Extra Income Acc	32.72	34.42	+ 0.04	6.34
European Grth	82.98	87.81	+ 0.08	0.07
Evergreen	36.35	38.87	+ 0.16	
General Equity	130.13	137.34	- 0.42	2.53
Japan Growth	39.66	42.19	+ 0.17	
Pedigree Grth	77.33	81.83	+ 0.05	2.00
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.23	43.63	+ 0.12	1.43
-do- Accum	44.16	46.73	+ 0.14	1.43
Retirement Inc #	32.04	35.04	+ 0.01	5.39
Special Sits	54.14	58.22	- 0.06	3.08
UK & Overseas	71.64	75.81	+ 0.21	0.65
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	80.77	84.13†	- 0.19	3.67
Capital	99.50	103.64†	- 0.24	2.12
High Income	55.71	58.03†	+ 0.09	6.38
Top 50	71.20	74.16†	- 0.27	2.17
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	220.86	230.09	- 0.37	4.19
Long Gilt	49.28	51.31	- 0.15	5.44
Monthly Inc Plus	56.40	58.76	+ 0.04	7.63
Preference Share	54.30	56.57	- 0.06	6.89
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	159.71	166.38	- 0.18	5.39
Managed Fund	88.07	91.75	- 0.04	2.47
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.28	54.46	+ 0.08	1.56
-do- Accum	62.51	65.12	+ 0.08	1.56
UK & General	120.54	125.58	- 0.19	2.24
-do- Accum	159.80	166.48	- 0.26	2.24
UK Growth	238.68	248.65	- 0.47	1.58
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	270.18	281.47	- 1.55	0.48
Far Eastern Grth	124.97	130.19	- 0.48	0.22
Global Bond	75.18	78.32	0.13	6.56
Japan Growth	102.00	106.26	+ 0.24	
North Amer Grth	310.14	323.10	+ 0.27	
Oriental Growth	78.30	81.57	- 0.46	0.60
Worldwide Growth	84.29	87.81	- 0.14	0.30
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.53	93.53	+ 0.01	6.02
Homemakers Fund	103.74	110.37	- 0.13	1.96
Quilter Fund	177.08	188.38†	- 0.29	1.68
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	39.97	42.72†		1.90

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
North American	195.53	205.82†	- 1.36	1.44
Pelican	177.28	186.61	- 1.35	2.59
Smaller Cos	73.06	76.90	- 0.07	2.42
Special Sits	90.37	95.07†	- 0.15	3.29
Tst of Inv Tsts	241.01	253.69†	- 0.03	1.40
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	124.93	132.55	+ 0.69	
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.98	62.56	- 0.25	0.46
High Income #	41.39	43.83	+ 0.08	11.39
Warr & Cl Opps	53.25	57.26†	+ 0.34	
Zero Preference	47.95	50.88	+ 0.03	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	116.00	123.40	- 0.10	2.10
United Charities	337.60	359.10	- 0.50	1.65
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.40
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	26.96	27.96	- 0.04	5.23
Strategic Inc	29.58	30.91†	- 0.03	5.49
Income Funds				
High Income	30.67	32.20†		4.79
Income Plus	163.40	173.80†	- 0.10	3.45
European Income	61.68	65.50	- 0.02	1.71
Moneybuilder Grth	36.41	39.69†	- 0.20	2.16
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	38.73	41.22	- 0.64	
American	443.50	470.50	+ 1.30	
Amer Spec Sits	262.80	280.00	+ 2.80	
Japan Smaller Cos	22.44	23.83	+ 0.10	
European	295.40	314.10	+ 0.20	0.43
European Opps	108.30	115.10	+ 0.40	0.49
Global Prv	39.39	41.89	+ 0.16	0.39
UK Growth	148.50	158.00†	+ 0.10	1.23
Growth & Inc	217.70	231.50	- 0.20	2.06
Intl PEP	60.31	64.13	+ 0.10	1.07
Japan Spec Sits	72.39	76.64	+ 0.34	
Japan	175.60	185.90	+ 0.80	
Managed Intl	450.50	478.30	+ 1.90	0.56
Moneybuilder Plus	78.85	79.41	+ 0.21	0.33
Recovery	70.20	74.65	+ 0.11	1.83
South E Asia	193.20	205.90†	- 0.10	0.92
Special Sits	850.00	903.80†	+ 0.50	0.49
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	121.16	121.16	+ 0.02	6.40
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	172.10	174.10†		1.59
Finsbury Prf Inc #	106.30	107.00†	- 0.20	6.17
Cap Ptfolio	195.20	197.20	- 0.30	0.08
General Opps	165.40	166.70		2.96
Growth Inc	45.65	46.11	+ 0.04	1.60
Private Portfolio	368.00	374.20†		1.09
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smllr Cos	177.70	188.60	- 0.20	
High Income	33.61	35.09†	- 0.10	6.97
Japan Smlr Cos	14.02	15.08	- 0.07	
US Smaller Cos	544.60	578.40	- 2.40	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	105.70	112.00	- 0.70	
-do- Accum	105.70	112.00	- 0.70	
Amer Smllr Cos	835.10	887.90†	- 2.50	
-do- Accum	853.10	907.20†	- 2.60	
Capital Tst	406.10	432.00†	- 0.50	1.26
-do- Accum	604.50	643.10†	- 1.00	1.26
Contl Smllr Cos	68.27	72.66	- 0.33	1.03
-do- Accum	73.20	77.95	- 0.35	1.03
Convertible	149.70	158.50	- 1.50	5.39
-do- Accum	337.60	359.10	- 3.90	5.38
Emerging Markets	77.80	83.19	- 0.98	0.54
-do- Accum	78.49	83.86	- 0.98	0.54
European	194.30	206.40	- 1.30	0.40
-do- Accum	206.70	219.40	- 1.40	0.40
Extra Income	466.30	496.10	- 1.20	3.39
-do- Accum	769.30	817.20	- 2.10	3.99
Financial	239.60	250.80		0.94
-do- Accum	252.50	268.60		0.94
Gilt Trust	64.63	[illegible]	- 0.06	7.04
-do- Accum	103.60	108.80	- 0.10	7.04
Health Fund Inc	306.90	327.30	- 1.20	
-do- Accum	306.90	327.30	- 1.20	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Growth	10.01	10.62	- 0.12	0.44
Emrg Mkts Grth	90.07	95.58	- 0.24	
Japan Growth	50.60	53.60	+ 0.25	
Dealing. 01277 842626				
Grth Port Inc	81.85	86.56†	+ 0.30	0.61
Grth Port Acc	83.61	88.42†	+ 0.31	0.60
Inc Port Inc	73.84	77.93	+ 0.32	3.50
Inc Port Acc	84.67	89.36	+ 0.38	3.39
Wwide Port	66.58	70.41	+ 0.12	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries. 01222 448412 Dealing. 01222 883512				
Equity Dist (5)	719.80	719.80	- 1.80	2.05
-do- Accum (5)	1523.00	1523.00	- 4.00	2.05
Equity Income #	121.40	121.40†	- 0.10	4.4[illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Leaders	293.86	312.64†	+ 0.76	0.86
PAM Mg Bal Grth	77.50	81.10†	- 0.58	0.33
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	361.10	380.50	+ 0.800	
-do- Accum	386.10	406.80	+ 0.700	
American Opps	149.40	158.30	+ 0.700	
-do- Accum	151.30	160.30	+ 0.700	
British Blue Chip	121.80	129.20	+ 0.200	2.33
-do- Accum	158.60	168.50	+ 0.300	2.33
Cash	101.00	101.00		6.60
-do- Accum	155.00	155.00	+ 0.100	6.60
Emerging Mkts	164.20	176.60	+ 0.400	0.17
-do- Accum	166.50	179.00	+ 0.300	0.17

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Tactical Allocn (5)	80.59	80.59†	- 0.84	5.07
European (5)	183.20	183.20†		0.15
Far Eastern (5)	211.00	211.00†	- 0.10	
Fixed Interest (5)	59.02	58.02†	+ 0.01	6.60
Gilt (5)	97.79	97.79	- 0.06	6.02
Global Growth (5)	89.87	89.87	+ 0.01	
Intl Bond (5)	49.71	49.71†	+ 0.03	5.35
Japanese (5)	62.29	62.29	+ 0.28	
North American (5)	292.00	292.00	+ 1.20	
Pacific Growth (5)	114.00	114.00†	- 0.50	0.25
Pacific Index (5)	44.45	44.45	+ 0.04	2.23
UK Index (5)	95.06	95.06	- 0.27	2.58
UK Recovery (5)	132.80	132.80	0.20	1.50
UK Smaller Cos (5)	173.40	173.40†	+ 0.30	1.11
US Index (5)	114.60	114.60	- 0.50	0.74
European Index (5)	116.10	116.10†		1.04

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Growth	420.30	444.60†	+ 1.000	0.43
-do- Accum	458.70	485.40†	+ 1.200	0.43
European Income	103.60	109.60	- 0.50	3.70
-do- Accum	156.10	165.00	- 0.90	3.70
General	709.80	754.30†	+ 0.700	2.08
-do- Accum	1481.00	1573.00†	+ 2.000	2.09
Global Bond	128.40	134.90†	- 0.10	4.16
-do- Accum	178.50	187.60†	- 0.20	4.16
Gold & General	151.30	161.60	- 2.10	0.45
-do- Accum	156.60	167.30	- 2.20	0.45
Govt Securities	99.86	102.90	+ 0.100	5.47
-do- Accum	219.80	226.60	+ 0.300	5.47
High Yield Bd	107.60	110.20†		6.36
-do- Accum	120.60	123.60†	+ 0.100	6.36
Income	233.20	247.80†		3.62
-do- Accum	400.40	425.60†		3.63

Annie Turner introduces a three-page report on call centres, a fast-growing business in which Britain leads Europe

The ring of confidence for today's businesses

If you make a telephone call to any large organisation these days, it is likely that your call will terminate at a call centre, where there will be staff dedicated to answering and sometimes making calls. Examples of this include British Telecom's directory and other inquiry services, mail order catalogues, British Gas and other utilities, airline reservations, and train travel inquiries.

Call centres are no longer exclusively the province of large organisations. There are now many bureaux able to provide such a service for a company, on a temporary or permanent basis. Telephone numbers can be allocated for the length of an advertising campaign or indefinitely. They are usually 0800 or 0500 numbers, which means they are free to the caller, or 0345 numbers, which means the caller pays only for the cost of a local call. As these bureaux are usually running services for a number of companies, staff answering the calls are prompted to make the appropriate reply by the computer system which is integrated with the telephone switchboard (PBX). As a call comes in, the number dialled is recognised by the system and an appropriate script appears on the screen in front of an operator.

Given the prompt, the operator then says: "Thank you for calling De Luxe Wedding Cakes, how can I help you?", or "Hello, this is Money Unlimited Bank, I understand you are inquiring about a loan. Could we start with your name and address, please?"

By the time the call has been put through to the next available free operator, the phone call and on-screen information about the caller arrive simultaneously.

This means that the call centre staff know whether they have someone who is having trouble paying their bill or someone whose order has gone astray. If a call needs to be transferred to another department, then again the call and relevant computer record are transferred simultaneously.

The cost of establishing call centres with computer and telephone integration (CTI) is falling rapidly, enabling smaller organisations to take advantage of these services. The first call centres were based on massive installations, tailor-made for the function they had to serve. Now they can be constructed from standard products, which, to a great extent, can be mixed and matched. Software is readily available to hitch up personal computers on a local area network to the company's PBX. This is helping to fuel the boom in the deployment of call centres.

> 'Customer service is now part of the vocabulary in Britain'

At present it is estimated that about 1 per cent of the working population is employed in call centres. The figure in the United States is 3 per cent and the UK is expected to reach that figure by 2000, yet advances in technology do not fully explain why companies are so keen on call centres, or why about half of all the call centres in Europe are found in the UK.

Michael McGinn of PBX-maker Mitel adds more flesh to the argument, saying: "Consumers get a higher level of service. Their calls are dealt with quickly and efficiently. And customer service is now part of the vocabulary in the UK in a way it wasn't 12 or 13 years ago, partly because customers demand so much more now. A good way of providing better service is through call centres and especially the use of computer telephony integration."

The London-based consultancy Schema reckons that the integration of computing and telephone technology will grow from its present position in Europe as a $100 million business, to a billion-dollar business by 2000.

There are several other factors, but one that many companies do not like to dwell on is that call centres allow them to reduce staff needed to deal with customers. Neil Boxer of Lucent Technology says: "Having installed call centre infrastructure, why wait for customers to call you only when something has gone wrong or to place an order? Agents should make outbound calls to follow up queries or complaints. Companies should use call centres and their staff to find out as much as they can about their customers and what they want."

The UK was one of the first countries in Europe to liberalise its telecoms industry. In the early 1980s, there was a monopoly supplier, BT. Now there are more than 150 companies licensed to provide telecoms services. This has resulted in competition, falling prices, innovation and flexibility.

Free numbers 0800 and 0500 as well as 0345 numbers are widely available to companies, and cost only a fraction of the equivalent charges in many European countries which still rely on a monopoly operator. This has led to overseas companies establishing call centres here to take advantage of our flexible telecoms infrastructure.

A good example is computer peripherals manufacturer Tektronix. It operates in many European countries, but chose the Merchants Group based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, to operate a call centre. Staff, fluent in at least two languages, take calls from throughout Europe on behalf of Tektronix. A caller from, say, Helsinki, simply makes a local charge call to the centre in Britain where the inquiry is dealt with.

Call centres will be deployed more widely across Europe as telecoms are liberalised, but it will be some years before Britain's popularity as a site will be rivalled.

Top: the Pan-European Communications Centre at Milton Keynes and, above, Tony Blair in a teleconference with voters

YOUR CALL TO MR BLAIR

NEW Labour embraced new technology when Tony Blair put on a Tristar headset from Plantronics to host the UK's first teleconference between a politician and members of the public.

In the run-up to the election, more than 3,000 voters joined Mr Blair to discuss Labour Party policy during three 20-minute teleconferences, made possible by the combined resources of ACT, BT Conference Call and Darome.

It was the first time that a politician had communicated directly in an open forum with members of the public on such a scale and the response was overwhelming. More than 147,000 voters attempted to call during the teleconference. Questions were asked on a first-come first-served basis and all participants were able to listen to Mr Blair's responses.

Mr Blair's comfort and concentration were assisted during the teleconferences by the fact that at just 12 grams, the Tristar headset is the lightest available for use all day.

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Don't keep your callers in 'voice-mail jail'

Sue Spenceley Burch on the need for a call-centre code of practice to improve customer service

A more comprehensive code of practice for call centres could mean freedom for those who get trapped in "voice-mail jail" — where an automated system fails to deal with their query but does not connect them to an operator.

Bill Mieran, chairman of the Telecom Users' Association, says: "We get complaints from customers about being asked to hold by an automated message, then spending ten minutes waiting to talk to an operator before hanging up in frustration. People say they would prefer an engaged tone, as they are paying for the call.

"The problem is usually caused because the call centre has insufficient staff. Unless dealt with, this groundswell of customer complaints could damage the call centre business."

The association is working with the Call Centre Association, a national professional body representing 150 call centres, in putting together a new code of practice. Linley French, the CCA's business manager says: " Most call centres say they aim to answer 95 per cent of calls within ten seconds, but how many achieve these targets? Do they start counting from when the phone first rings or from the point where the customer chooses the first option? How many calls are abandoned when the customer gets fed up with holding?"

Poor communications between a firm's departments can be the cause of problems for customers. Mr French explains: "Sometimes a marketing department doesn't tell the call centre it is doing a big mail-out. We encourage our members to improve internal communications so that they can adjust staff levels for busy times.

"After all, if another company can answer calls more quickly than they can, the customer will go there. We also encourage our members to have in place a communications channel, so that customer complaints can be noted and dealt with."

A survey from business telecommunications specialists Energis claims that companies which do not answer their calls quickly enough are losing millions of pounds each year. It revealed that 10 per cent of all incoming calls go unanswered by large businesses; smaller companies fare slightly better, at around 6 per cent. Call centre technology, used properly, enables companies to be far more effective at dealing with incoming calls.

'Centres aim to answer 95 per cent of calls in ten seconds'

To help call centres to find out how their customers feel, British Telecom's call centre subsidiary, Connections in Business, has developed a research tool called Satisfactel. Researchers phone customers within 24 hours of them contacting the call centre and take them through a detailed questionnaire. It reveals what the customer expected, how well the service matched up and how their experience of calling the centre has affected their attitude towards the company.

Jon Reynolds, head of sales and client services at Connections in Business, says: "Our own research shows that older people are more uncomfortable about automated systems and leaving messages, but are becoming increasingly familiar with the technology. Younger, more technology-aware people say that they don't mind an automated service if the application is fairly straightforward. They see it as efficient."

Automated services can be useful in helping a company todeal with a large volume of calls. During August, when violent and unexpected electrical storms hit the South of England, Seeboard, the electrical supplier for the region, had to cope with widespread power failures caused by lightning and floods.

During most storms, the company — which serves 4.6 million people — would expect to receive 5,000 to 15,000 emergency calls from customers. During this particular storm and its aftermath, Seeboard received 24,700 calls in 24 hours, reaching a high of 2,950 an hour.

The company used a recorded message which informed customers about supply failures it was already dealing with, encouraging them to end their call unless reporting a new problem.

Staff on shift were able to cope with those customers who needed to speak to an operator, while other staff were brought in to enable Seeboard to answer 60 per cent of calls within 20 seconds. The recorded message was continually updated with new information and, once each problem was resolved, staff rang customers they had spoken to, to ensure that their power was back on. Every customer had their supply restored within 24 hours.

Seeboard uses a Siemens iSDX network and BT lines. It connects the customer service application to the iSDX switch with Rostrum software from royalblue.

Large volumes of calls can also be expected when a company advertises on TV and includes a hotline number. Jon Reynolds says: "In this type of situation you tend to get a huge influx in a very short time — up to 500 simultaneous be cost-effective to handle all those calls live, so the solution has to be a combination of live and automatic answering."

The problems which customers encounter with call centres stem, he believes, from companies using the technology to make up for understaffing. "Wallpapering over the cracks just makes things worse," he says. "The technology should be used for the right reasons, not just superficial ones."

During August's electrical storm Seeboard received 24,700 calls in 24 hours — peaking at around 2,950 per hour

Talking your way into a good job

RECRUITMENT

Growth in call centres is producing jobs for people with the right skills, *Sue Spenceley Burch writes.*

The Merchants Group is one of Europe's largest call centre consultancies, with 450 agents at its Milton Keynes headquarters. Its director of human resources, Cheryl Clifford, explains what she looks for when recruiting.

"Certain basic attributes are common to all good call centre agents — the ability to articulate clearly and to control and direct a conversation," she says. "Real listening skills are also vital — plus the ability to read between the lines and develop rapport and empathy with the caller. We currently handle a project on the subject of birth control and we screened job applicants very carefully for their ability to handle such a sensitive issue."

Cheryl Clifford: listening skills

There is also an increasing demand for people with languages. Merchants Group runs an international help-desk for Tektronix colour printers, covering 43 countries. Calls are handled in ten languages. Around 10 per cent of Merchants Group's staff are non-UK nationals handling calls in their mother tongue, with a further 27 per cent of staff being UK nationals with language skills.

To ensure that they are working effectively, call centre staff are subject to intense scrutiny. In some centres supervisors listen to live calls during training sessions. A new quality control system for call centres — NiceAudit, produced by Nice Systems Ltd — uses digital voice recording and evaluation software. Managers record calls, play them back and use them for training.

Working in a call centre is demanding, with a great deal of pressure to perform well at all times — sometimes dealing with difficult or even abusive customers. The Merchants Group trains staff to control their moods and emotions. Otherwise the effects of a stressful call may be visited on the next caller.

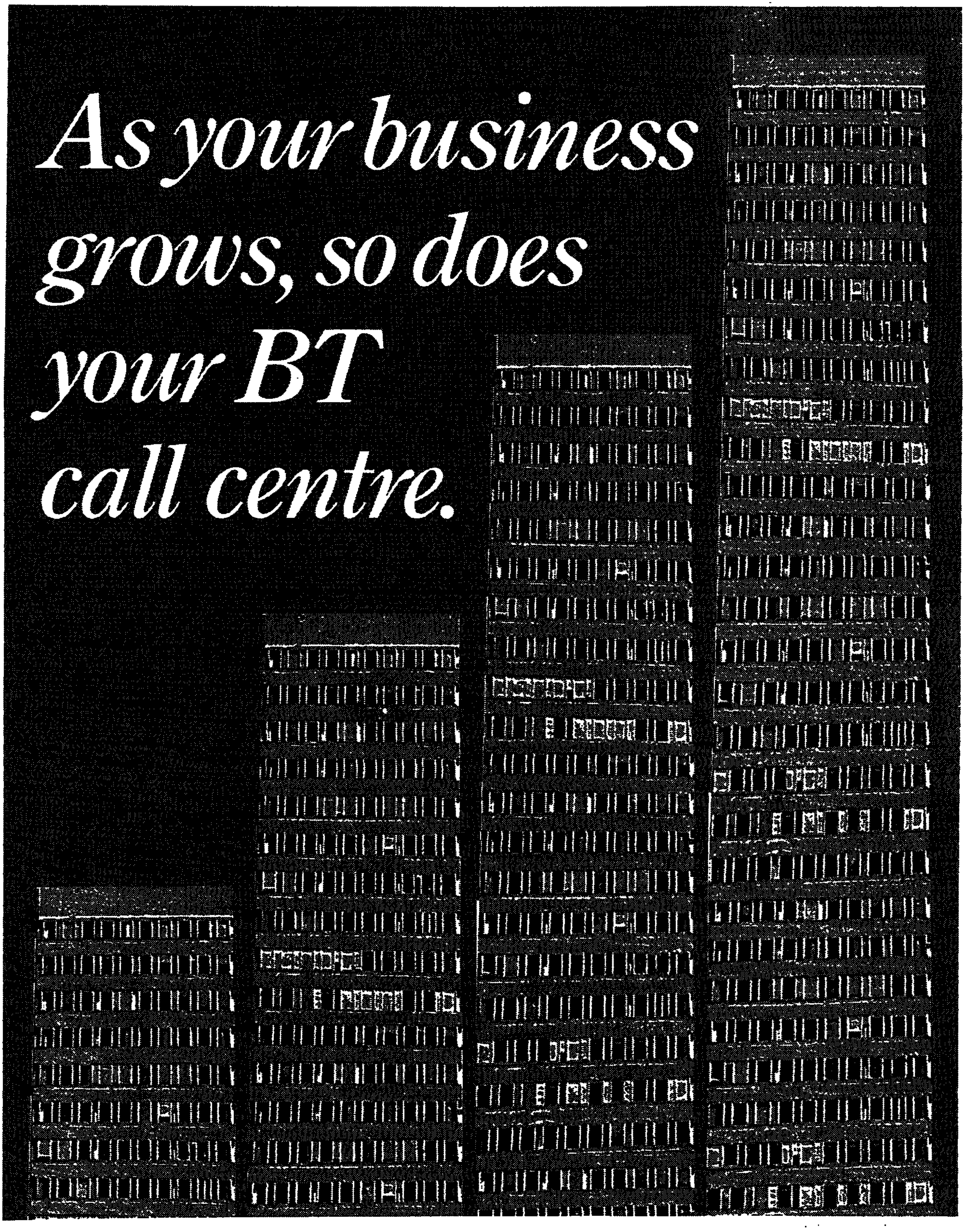
Recent research has revealed discontent among staff working in some call centres. A Calcom survey found that only 40 per cent of those surveyed said morale was high in their workplace. More than half spent 90 per cent of their time on the phone and said this led to boredom and frustration.

While two thirds said they received regular positive feedback on their performance, some said they only had feedback when it was negative. Another common complaint was the lack of career opportunities, because call centres often have very flat structures.

Ben White, of Calcom, a telebusiness consultancy specialising in call centres, explains: "Lots of businesses have leapt into call centres. The survey highlighted gaps where investment is needed in training and development of operators and managers.

"The focus is often on developing systems and product knowledge, but a call centre's main resource is its people. Often managers are moved into the call centre from elsewhere in the business and their people skills may be overlooked. Managers need to bear in mind that phone work can be routine and a motivational environment is essential."

Two thirds of those Calcom surveyed were also unhappy about pay — recent research by the Merchants Group found that salary levels for call centre agents average around £11,800 a year. During the next five years, Cheryl Clifford expects salaries to increase in line with the more demanding skills required.



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Why not change the way we work?

How the regions plugged in

Susan Gray looks at call centre job growth around the country

From chasing up a parking fine in North London to ordering a mail-order CD from Virgin, telephone users are finding that call centres, often based in remote parts of the UK regions, are playing an increasing role in our lives.

Call centres are also playing a vital role in the economies of many parts of the British Isles from Lasgair in the Western Isles to Telford New Town between Birmingham and the Welsh Marches. By its nature the teleservices industry is highly mobile, and British regions are competing with other areas of Europe, especially The Netherlands and the Irish Republic, as well as the Asia Pacific region and India, where labour is cheaper.

John Poore, the senior press officer with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, covering half the land mass of Scotland, says: "Our people are highly skilled, highly educated, flexible and loyal. We are looking at the value-added end of the market that is less prone to fluctuations. We cannot compete with the Asia Pacific region on wages, therefore we do the cerebral work such as designing the software that makes teleservices information technology work."

Robert Hartley, the director of Telford Development Agency, says that in attracting call centres regions should not try to be all things to all men. In August Telford announced it had attracted 450 jobs at the new Talking Pages call centre, joining Sunlight Services, dealing with commercial laundry, and the charity, People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

"Telford has a good reputation as a manufacturing centre, with the highest concentration of Japanese and Taiwanese companies in the UK," he says. "We felt we had the people, buildings and IT infrastructure to go for a segment of the call centre market. Many of these companies want to be up and running quickly and Telford can offer the training support that enables them to do that.

"We are not going to get the 1,000 job call centres that go to Warrington, Newcastle and Doncaster because we just have not got the population to supply them with staff. Nor do we see multilingual call centres as a natural market because large cities are far better placed to deal with international clients. But we are looking at medium-size call centre operations of up to 500 jobs which we will attract by being realistic.

"The location of Telford is a key factor, as we are only 30 minutes from Birmingham, but can offer greenfield sites and a superb standard of living. The PDSA chose Telford because it was central for staff from their 40 animal hospitals. Call centres located here find it easy to draw in partners and clients from all over the UK. New inquiries show the strategy is working."

With the Irish Republic, the doyen of teleservices, just across the Irish Sea, Tim Bagshaw, the project manager of the Merseyside Partnership, is equally realistic on the call centres that Liverpool can hope to attract. Mr Bagshaw wanted to build on the long-established call centre presence in Liverpool of Littlewoods mail order, Barclays and McKintyre and King.

"As Liverpool has established experience, we asked companies why they were here. The reasons were cost-effective labour, the availability and adaptability of staff and people's attitude. The warmth of the average Merseysider struck a rapport with customers.

"Ireland has been very successful in bringing in investment. They have provided, to some extent, best practice, but there is a limit to the number of call centres that an area such as Dublin can contain.

"We see ourselves as an emerging call centre market, attracting people such as BT's Euro Charge Card, employing groups of 12 people to deal with different countries of Europe in their own language. Different people, different skills," Mr Bagshaw concludes.

In Leeds, home of the telephone bank First Direct, 70 per cent of the economy comes from the financial services industry, and call centres will create 2,000 jobs this year.

Making light work of those old heavy headsets

LIGHTWEIGHT, ergonomic, easy-to-wear headsets are taken for granted in today's call centres. But early headsets in use in the 1950s, like the one pictured above left, weighed 1.2lb — roughly equivalent to wearing today's standard business telephone around your neck.

"Obviously the major benefit was to allow telephone operators to have both hands free to use the switchboard," said Wendy Chalmers Mill, a physiotherapist, when asked her opinion of the ergonomic aspects of the development in headset weights. "However, it is possible that the old-style design could have had some potentially damaging effects upon the operator's posture. Most of the 1.2lb weight would be taken by the neck and upper back.

"If you look closely at the photograph, the weight of the headset is pulling the upper body forward, outside its normal centre of gravity, which could affect the spinal muscles and joints in the long term."

In the 1960s, the headset evolved into a slightly less cumbersome model weighing just over half a pound — equivalent to the combined weight of two mobile telephones.

Today, Plantronic's lightest headset, the TribStar, pictured right, weights just 12 grams — not much more than a ballpoint pen.

Evolution, not revolution, in sales efficiency

SETTING UP

The ingredients of a call centre are simple enough: a suitable building, the right sort of phone and computer system and some well-trained people to answer the calls. What is it about this combination that has turned Littlewoods from a mail order to a phone order company? What is it that has reduced the ratio of staff per account by a factor of ten to one in some banks? Call centre magic?

Not magic: simply an efficient use of skilled people through the ability to measure and manage the business support process. Selling insurance direct has to be a good thing if you can sell the same number of policies at half the cost. Direct selling has been an ongoing revolution for some time — it would be almost impossible without the call centre's ability to handle vast numbers of calls efficiently.

The evolution of the call centre within a company is not difficult to trace. The company often starts doing business by phone by using the existing PBX. It soon becomes apparent that the PBX loses lots of calls because agents are busy.

Out goes the PBX in favour of a system that queues the calls and that lets you know what's going on. It is then clear that most of the agents' time is spent updating records. The whole process is then computerised and some software is bought that is easy to use.

The company now has a modern call centre; the next stage is to tie the phone system and the computing system together. This is where CTI (computer telephony integration) comes in. The agents get information on screen when they need it — popped up as the calls arrive. Call durations reduce, and difficult calls can be transferred, with their data screens, to someone more able to deal with them.

Both efficiency and customer service have improved; which is the more important? A recent survey by the Merchants Group showed that 36 per cent of call centre managers thought that customer service was their number one driver. However, 35 per cent of the 109 call centres involved in the exercise rated increased revenues number one. Fortunately, CTI can satisfy both needs — and supply better management information. Call centres are famous for their ability to flood managers' desks with statistics. In bringing together telephone and computer reports, CTI can make this data useful.

In addition to CTI, an interactive voice response system can be installed to automate some of the work and provide 24-hour service. Callers have to respond to the system by pressing buttons on their phones, but this will soon be supplemented by speech recognition technology.

Meanwhile, many customers are joining the million or so Internet users in the UK. They want direct access to the company from their screens, bypassing the call centre. Fedex claimed to have saved itself up to $500,000 each month by providing direct access to parcel tracking information in this way. But some Net users still want to talk to the call centre when things get tough. A "call me" button is provided on the company's Web page.

Business has increased, but the call centre has now shrunk. Some agents work from home, logging in to the centre when they wish to, or being asked to take overflow calls.

Is this the end of the evolutionary line? No; the IT department finds a new system. Here the phone and computer systems are reduced to one small box. And the agents no longer need a separate phone and PC; the PC has a wireless link to their headsets. The box has swallowed the interactive voice machine and can spit out faxes and e-mails at the touch of a button. The company buys it — and then moves the call centre into one small room.

Selling direct has to be good if you can halve the cost

ROB WALTERS

China here, can I help you?

NETWORKS

TO FUNCTION effectively, call centres need networks that carry information, be it voice, video or data traffic, from main computers to operators' screens.

The faster an individual screen can capture data, the greater the range of calls and queries the operator is able to deal with. As networking grows more complex, operators in call centres are more able to act as one-stop shops, accessing data from many sources to provide the information a customer requires.

Howard Shaw, Berkshire-based managing director of European operations at the Swiss-owned Ascom Timeplex, says: "The key to a call centre is that it can pursue information down many routes. A bank, for example, will need operators to offer information on savings, pensions, mortgages, insurance and lending, to name but a few, together with current account information."

Call centres, he says, are changing the way people work. More employees are in direct contact with the customer. Their access to more complex information reduces the need for specialists.

Ascom was one of the first companies to supply networking to call centres: there are now four or five leading companies in the business. The information it supplies to British Telecom includes the 192 directory inquiry service and Child Line.

Mr Shaw says that networking enables call centres to operate from rural areas. "An operator working from home with a regional accent is often seen as offering the most friendly service to customers," he says.

Organisations are using call centres to set up where labour costs are lower. One mobile telephone company, for example, services all its Far East inquiries from China, where wages are low.

Don't panic, sir. Try switching on

HELPLINES

MORE and more smaller companies are discovering the marketability of customer service, *Rob Walters writes.*

Many call centres are dedicated to support, where calls are routed to service engineers, most of whom are on the road. At one extreme lies support operations such as the Microsoft help desks. At the other lies the small company that sells PC networks to companies similar in size.

Most of the calls are simple queries. All help desk agents have their favourite tales of faults cured by gently telling the frantic callers where the on/off button for their printer/fax machine or appliance is located.

At the large end, call centres are usually based upon specialised telephone systems called automatic call distribution (ACDs). At the small end the business is usually based on a key system. Here the ACD functions are added by connecting a PC with specialised software to the system. BT distributes an ACD system for Norstar which does just this. Four hundred have been installed in the past three years. Richard Peers of Microsoft quotes the US-based Multimedia Telecommunications Association in projecting that growth in the informal call centre market will be 58.6 per cent with the large call centre growing at only 7.8 per cent.

But Microsoft is also viewed as the force that will cut the cost of integration. Computer telephony integration (CTI) has great benefits but is hard to install, and costly.

Microsoft joined the CTI scene with its announcement of TAPI, a method of interfacing to the telephone world via Windows. TAPI2 has been developed in a direct response to the call centre market.

But another solution for the small-to-medium size company is a call centre in a box. These products are PC-based. One example is Macfarlane's MTS CallPlus. Such products should simplify the installation and support of integrated systems.

EXHIBITIONS

TECHNOLOGY for current and future applications of computer telephony integration (CTI) will be featured at the sixth annual Voice Europe exhibition at Olympia 2 from October 7 to 9.

More than 200 companies from 14 countries are exhibiting. The programme includes four conferences, with more than 80 speakers. A Call Centre tutorial is being staged on October 6 and a symposium on speech recognition on October 6 and 7.

Guest speakers at a three-day computer telephony/voice congress will include Richard Peers, business development manager for Microsoft UK, and Tom Schuster, managing director of Novell UK.

Later in the season, from November 24 to 26, is the TMA 30 Convention at Brighton. The conference that runs alongside it is expected to attract some 1,000 delegates from the ranks of top corporate management and will be chaired on successive days by Peter Sissons, Anna Ford and Jeremy Paxman. Speakers include Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, and Don Cruickshank, Oftel's regulator. Details: 01372 361000.

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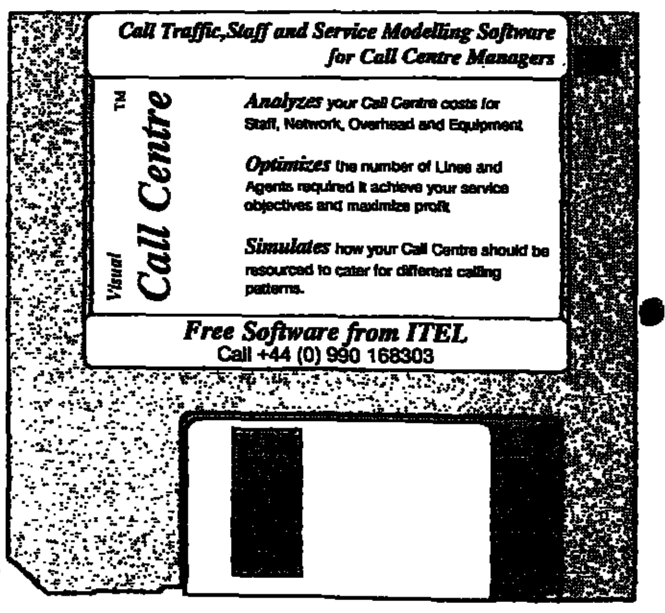

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Said Business School

Secretary/PA to the Peter Moores Director

Clerical and Library Grade 5 £14,580 - £17,376

Professor John Kay has recently been appointed as the new Director of the Said Business School, formerly the School of Management Studies, and requires someone to successfully manage and co-ordinate his busy schedule.

The successful candidate will be required to work independently, capable of making informed decisions in the absence of the Director, dealing with the media and liaising with senior people both from within the University and the business world. Good communication skills are essential, together with excellent word-processing ability, and the capacity to work well under pressure. Previous experience of working at this level is very important and prospective applicants should be educated to A-level, or equivalent, with advanced secretarial qualifications.

Further details are available from the Administrator, School of Management Studies, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HE, telephone (01865) 228470 to whom applications should be made, together with curriculum vitae and the names of two referees. The closing date for applications is Friday 10 October 1997 and interviews will be held the following week.

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Exciting opportunity for intelligent, motivated and organised person to assist in the day to day operational aspects of the Business Centre. Good pc skills and the ability to juggle many tasks simultaneously in a demanding and fast moving environment are essential.

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Our Chief Executive requires a PA to provide comprehensive secretarial and administrative support, including typing, audio, answering enquiries, drafting business correspondence, and booking meetings. It will be your responsibility to manage the Chief Executive's diary and reams of paperwork, type and circulate reports and liaise with other staff as necessary. If you are an efficient, experienced PA with at least two years' senior experience we would like to hear from you. **Ref: 166/T**

Secretarial Assistant to the Chairman

Up to £13,820

You will provide secretarial support to the chairman, including typing, audio, answer enquires and arrange meetings. It will be your responsibility to manage office files and liaise with the Chairman's main office concerning diary arrangements.

You will also provide secretarial support to the Chief Executive and his PA, mostly in the form of typing. If you have a minimum of two years' relevant experience as a PA or similar we would like to hear from you. **Ref: 168/T**

Typing at 65wpm, audio skills and a thorough knowledge of computerised office systems (Microsoft office, e-mail, database) are essential for both posts. Excellent communication and organisational skills, and the ability to work with light supervision and deal calmly with the pressures of a very busy office while maintaining a relaxed sense of humour are equally important.

For further details and an application form (despatched 2nd class post), please contact the Personnel Department, National Lottery Charities Board, St Vincent House, Orange Street, London WC2H 7HH. Tel: 0171 747 5219/5303 (24 hour answerphone) or 0171 747 5237 during office hours. Please quote appropriate reference number. Closing date: 3 October 1997.

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MD's PA - £20,000

This Chelsea based interior design firm are looking for a professional PA to join their dedicated, strong team. This PA role will have client contact and scope to be involved in marketing so experience and enthusiasm in these areas are welcomed! You'll need good time management as you'll have lots of responsibilities including some personal work, following up on new business leads and providing top level PA support to the busy MD. You have solid PA experience (min 3yrs) and be 25yrs+ with a mature, strong personality. Car driver essential.

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Please contact Margaret Sorohan.

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Please contact Melinda Marks.

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Temp in the Docklands

We need secretaries with good MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint & 50wpm+ typing. Aged 20 -30 years with a proven track record, good educational qualifications. The client is a dynamic US Investment Bank and many of the positions could lead to permanent appointments with highly competitive package including generous travel allowance. Rates: cir. £450 per week.

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The newly established marketing department of a large city firm is looking for a fifth member for their team. You will be involved in research for pitches, client care, assisting with events, producing a monthly newsletter using your DTP skills as well as the secretarial duties. The team is sparky, youthful and outgoing and is looking for someone with high energy levels and excellent interpersonal skills. You will have a sound knowledge of MSOffice, 60 wpm typing and 2 years' secretarial experience. Please call Angela Mortimer plc.

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A University Sector College
Chief Executive and Principal: Professor Robert Ely

PA to the Chief Executive.

Salary £20,000 - £25,000 + benefits

Rose Bruford College is situated in an eighteenth century landscape park, thirty minutes from Charing Cross. We are a University Sector institution specialising in the Arts and with a national and international profile.

The Chief Executive is seeking to appoint a person of exceptional ability to a post that provides a challenging and exciting opportunity at a time of significant growth and international expansion. The successful candidate will be required to work independently, should be capable of making informed decisions; and be able to deal confidently with senior staff and others within the College, together with external agencies and international partners.

Good humour, tact and diplomacy are required to liaise with contacts at the highest levels in business, higher education, theatre, film, and television. Good communication skills are essential, as are first class shorthand and word-processing, efficient diary management and the capacity to be flexible and to work well under pressure. Some international travel may be required.

Further details are available from Sue McTavish, Registrar, Rose Bruford College, Lamorbey Park, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 9DF. Tel: 0181 308 2607. Application forms should be returned, together with full CV names of two referees, no later than October 8th. Interviews will be held on Monday October 20th, 1997.

Rose Bruford college is a registered charity number 307907 which exists to provide training and education in theatre and related arts.

Word Processing Operator (Snr)
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Typing does not come top of the list in this role! This is an ideal step for an exp'd secretary who really wants to take on more admin responsibility and develop their skills on Powerpoint for presentations.

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PA to CHAIRMAN, City

8 months' contract c£30k pro rata

A challenging role for this high profile Chairman of a 'blue chip' company. You must possess:
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Bright, lively personality, Charm, diplomacy, stylish presentation
Proactive approach
Quick intellect, able to work under pressure
IT literate, shorthand 90+ wpm
Please fax your CV to:

Janette Teager & Associates
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c£19,000 + Benefits.

An exciting opportunity for a PA with an interest in wine. You will be providing secretarial support to the head of this very busy prestigious organisation, as well as working as part of the team. The role will involve organising seminars and conferences and ensuring they run smoothly. You will enjoy using your initiative and are able to work without supervision. An excellent telephone manner is essential as is fluency in French. Microsoft Office, Shorthand and Typing 55wpm.

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JOIN THE OVER 35 CLUB! £19,750 + Free Lunch
Are you tired of hearing that you're too old or past it? If you have 90wpm shorthand, 50wpm typing and knowledge of Word for Windows, this established, family owned company in Berkeley Square would really appreciate you. Stunning offices and genuinely friendly colleagues. Interested? If you are aged between 35-50 call now!

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You will be responsible for ensuring that the CEO's day runs as smoothly as possible and his time is optimised with advanced planning. Furthermore you will be supervising and co-ordinating six executive secretaries including his own PA and three additional team members therefore experience is essential in this capacity and naturally requires a motivated and totally flexible, unflappable attitude.

This position requires tact diplomacy, discretion and confidentiality with the ability to communicate at all levels including at corporate social events. You will need previous exposure to a highly pressurised work environment at a similar level. Preference will also be given to those with shorthand and knowledge of a European language is beneficial.

Please apply in writing with a full CV and current remuneration details to Nicola Strong, IPS Group Limited, Lloyd's Avenue House, Lloyds Avenue, London EC3N 3ES. Fax: 0171 481 0994.

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The company: Fantastic French investment bank with in house gym/restaurant and with great opportunities for progression.

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The essentials: Advanced Word/Powerpoint and confident French. Must be used to a busy environment and ideally have trading floor experience, at least have a banking background.

assist ON THE trading FLOOR (use your French)

£21K
Excellent banking benefits

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The role: Senior PA/Secretary to two young, successful managers, full PA duties with a high organisational content including arranging travel, meetings, lunches etc.

The essentials: Strong secretarial skills (60 wpm typing, knowledge of MS Office), previous experience in a financial/banking environment, excellent communication and organisational skills.

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The role: Assisting with the impeccable management of three public and private lives as well as ensuring accurate documentation, press relations and administration of all that entails.

The essentials: Two years minimum secretarial experience; 60 wpm typing and knowledge of WordPerfect DOS packages; excellent eye for detail and exceptional organisational skills.

HIGH profile personal secretary

£16-17K West London

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The company: Highly successful US Investment Bank, world-wide offices, excellent reputation and wonderful working environment.

The role: Full PA support to Chairman, thoroughly involving role with international liaison, general administration and high organisational content.

The essentials: Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint, 65 wpm typing, numerate, diplomatic and discreet. Three years working at senior level in a similar financial/City environment.

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Further details and an application form from:

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Tel No: 0171 224 1538 (24 hour Recruitment Line)

Closing date for applications is: **7 October 1997**

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DIRECTOR'S PA - BILLINGUAL - £20K
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Please send your cv with a covering letter and current salary level to Dibby Pickles, Ammirati Puris Lintas Limited, 84 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PX.
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£ Extremely Competitive
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You will initially be based at High Wycombe, Bucks, but will move to our new International offices west of Heathrow by the end of 1997.

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0171 638 9991 - City Office
0171 499 8070 - West End Office

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City **£Neg**

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Please contact David on 0171 589 2446.
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My Rolf Harris serenade

Hundreds of secretaries want to work in television. Irna Imran talks to **Joan Llewelyn Owens** about getting the kind of position that many dream of but few achieve

Many secretaries have worked their way up by sheer determination, and Irna Imran, aged 30, is one of them. She was born in England, but studied in a convent school in Pakistan until she was ten, switching to secondary school in Bradford.

She remembers the brother of a convent schoolfriend telling her: "If you can type, you will never be out of work" and, as a teenager, she taught herself keyboard skills with the aid of library books.

Ms Imran also armed herself with eight O levels and temped as a secretary, which gave her all-round experience in audio typing and wordprocessing packages. "At the time," she says, "I was also doing part-time research connected with the Asian community for Yorkshire Television."

Her ambition was to work for BBC Television in London, where the most interesting jobs were. It would be difficult, she soon realised, because the jobs were first advertised internally in *Ariel*, the staff newspaper. So she paid for copies to be sent to her and began applying.

She says: "I concentrated on those in production, hoping for something like *Top of the Pops*." Her perseverance paid off. "It took me six months before I got a job, in 1994, on *QED*, the BBC1 documentary programme. I worked as a production secretary to the unit manager and the commissioning editor. They interviewed quite a few people, and I was appointed because of the way I coped with the test. This involved prioritising tasks. I was faced with a filing tray containing letters to be answered, messages requiring action, faxes to be sent and documents to be filed. I had to write down what I would do first, and why.

"At the end of the interview, they asked: 'Anything else?' I said that I really wanted the job and would do my very best for them." She also told them how in her kitchen at home her spice jars were all labelled and set out in rows, and her friends always commented on how well organised she was.

Ms Imran told her interviewers: "Can you imagine what I'm going to be like once you are paying me? The stationery cupboard will be as neat and tidy as my kitchen cupboard."

As a production secretary, Ms Imran dealt with mail and phone calls, kept the diary and a scrapbook of cuttings, typed schedules for programmes, kept track of everything and everybody, and made sure that all deadlines were met.

She recalls: "I let my bosses know I was interested in filming, and when the crews were working nights or weekends I would volunteer to provide coffee or to help with crowd control.

"One day the woman who was doing *Animal Hospital* said to me: 'I am going to give you the nicest job. You can look after Rolf Harris.' Then, *Animal Hospital* went out on BBC1 three times a day — live — for five days. The first show was at noon, and so we had to be at the first production meeting at 7am. We often worked a 16-hour day. My boss gave me a free rein, and I helped to set up our production office near the hospital in North London.

> The stationery cupboard will be as neat as my kitchen cupboard, I told the interviewer

"I had been a little nervous about meeting Rolf Harris, but he was wonderful, and did lots of drawings for us. I had to make sure a car was sent for him, provide tea when he arrived and get his lunch.

Harris: "He was wonderful"

"One day he asked: 'Can you speak Urdu?' When I said I could, he got down on one knee and serenaded me with a song from an Indian film.

"When I asked him where he had learnt it, he told me that when he was in India, unable to speak one of the local languages, he asked someone to teach him a song that would help him to break down barriers."

After her stint on *Animal Hospital*, Ms Imran was sent on the BBC's training scheme and promoted to production assistant (PA), the producer's shadow, handling a budget of perhaps £50,000 or £100,000 and in charge of deciding how the money should be spent.

She worked on *QED* and *Hospital Watch*, but eventually decided to leave the BBC and to read for a degree in Urdu and Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies in Central London.

For several years she had been working with the Bradford Heritage Recording Unit, which aims to build up an archive of the community in pictures and words. Ninety per cent of the Pakistani community in England are from Mirpur, she says, and to help with this archive she has recently gone there with a photographer to interview its people.

On her return, she helped to set up an exhibition, called *Home from Home*, which was shown first in Bradford, is now in Birmingham and is due this month to go to Batley in west Yorkshire (for details, tel: 01274 631756).

"Everything I did for other people as a secretary, I apply to the way I organise my life now," she says. "I am very busy, and time management and the ability to prioritise are an important part of my work."

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Imran: "One day a woman told me she was going to give me the nicest job"

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Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Credit for time spent on remand

Regina v Governor of Haverigg Prison, Ex parte McMahon

Before Mr Justice Sedley and Mr Justice Astill

[Reasons August 22]

Where an offender was remanded at the same time for related offences which were subsequently tried and sentenced separately, the time spent on remand which was not credited against the first sentence could be used to reduce the amount of time actually spent in prison serving the second sentence.

It was undesirable that there should be split sentencing of offences which belonged together, since that was capable of creating injustice to defendants as well as multiplying public expense.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held giving reasons for having granted a writ of habeas corpus on August 19 to Anthony Joseph McMahon in respect of his continued imprisonment at Haverigg for assault and intimidation.

Mr Martin Soorjoo for the applicant; Miss Eleanor Grey for the prison governor.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said the applicant had committed two assaults on a woman on June 27, 1996, for which he was arrested and granted bail. While on bail, on October 17 and 20, he had committed further acts of intimidation and assault on the same woman. He was arrested for those and for breach of his bail conditions on October 21 and remanded in custody on all offences.

The initial assaults had been tried before the justices on February 3, 1997 and the applicant had been imprisoned for 120 days. By virtue of section 33 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 he was entitled to be released unconditionally at the expiry of half that time.

He had spent 105 days in custody by the date he was sentenced, which was more than sufficient to extinguish the 60 days he was to serve, although 15 days short of the full period imposed. He was thus entitled to be released immediately on sentence.

The applicant was returned to custody to await his trial at Liverpool Crown Court on the remaining offences. On March 24, 1997, after another 49 days in custody, he was sentenced to terms totalling 15 months imprisonment, that is, 457 days.

By section 33 the time he was entitled to be released unconditionally after serving 229 days. A further 49 days, representing the time spent in custody awaiting crown court trial, also fell to be subtracted, giving a net period in custody of 179 days which would have expired on September 19, 1997.

But the applicant contended that he was also entitled to set against the time spent in custody the 45-day period which was the unused balance of the time spent on remand between October 21, 1996 and February 3, 1997. That would have entitled him to release on August 5.

Split sentencing for offences which belonged together and ought to be the subject of compehensive sentencing was capable of creating injustice to defendants as well as multiplying public expense. The problem was recurrent and might increase with pressure on justices to dispose of cases quickly.

There was no reason why the justices should not have sent the two earlier assaults to the crown court for sentence along with the remaining charges to be tried there. Had that been done, the problem would not have arisen.

The instant problem would arise only where an offender was remanded in custody simultaneously in relation to offences which were subsequently tried separately.

Miss Grey argued that the 45 remand days unused in relation to the justices' sentence were used up in reducing to 15 days the period for which the applicant remained at risk should he re-offend of being returned to prison to serve part or all of the other half of his sentence under section 40 of the 1991 Act.

Mr Soorjoo maintained that the credit involved was credit against real time in prison. Although both were tenable constructions, Mr Soorjoo's was correct because section 41 of the 1991 Act focused the calculation exercise on time actually served and did not seek to take into account time which, although included in the length of sentence pronounced, would not be served unless the offender re-offended during its currency.

The point of section 33 was to produce what was in effect a suspended sentence for a prisoner sentenced to less than 12 months. The length of that suspended sentence reduced with each day the offender remained at large without re-offending and it expired when the full term of the sentence pronounced by the court expired.

To reduce that salutary period artificially by the time spent in custody which was not used up in extinguishing the custodial half of the sentence was to fritter away the statutory purpose.

Mr Justice Astill delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Quinn Melville, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor.

Court of Appeal

Territorial limit of Charities Act

Gaudiya Mission and Others v Brahmachary and Others

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment July 30]

A fair reading of the scheme of the Charities Act 1993, and regard paid to the principle of the implied territoriality of legislation and practical considerations of enforceability, showed that the Act was not intended or apt to extend to an institution whose constitution was within the laws of a foreign state. Thus the High Court's charity jurisdiction could only be exercised in relation to those established in England and Wales according to English law.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of the Attorney-General against the judgment of Mr David Oliver, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division (*The Times* April 1, 1997) when he ordered, inter alia, that the Attorney-General should be added to proceedings between the plaintiffs, a registered Indian charity, its president and secretary, and the defendants, Kamalashka DAS Brahamachary, the priest in charge of that charity's London temple, and the trustees of Gaudiya Mission Society Trust, a registered English charity.

Mr William Henderson for the Attorney-General; the plaintiffs were not represented; Mr Ram Yajnik for Kamalaksha DAS Brahamachary.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the plaintiff, the mission, maintained preaching centres and temples, known as maths, to spread the doctrines of the Vaishnava faith throughout India, and also in Cricklewood, north-west London. It was registered in India and enjoyed charitable status there but was not registered in England. The present proceedings were part of a battle between rival factions within the mission, also being fought in India. By a deed and declaration of trust the trustees set up a trust under the name Gaudiya Mission Society Trust and that was a registered English charity.

The plaintiffs contended, inter alia, that the assets held by the trust were those of the plaintiffs, that the trust was passing itself off as the mission, and by their writ claimed that the London math, its moneys and funds were the plaintiffs' property, and also injunctions restraining the defendants from conducting the plaintiffs' affairs, using their premises or dealing with their moneys.

His Lordship said that the key question was whether the mission was an institution established for charitable purposes and subject to the control of the High Court with respect to charities, within section 96(1) of the 1993 Act. The order of the judge, who had not had the benefit of the more extensive authority cited to the Court of Appeal, was contrary to the correct construction of the Act, incompatible with established principles and inconsistent with authority.

The Act was a consolidating Act extending only to England and Wales, with minor exceptions, and contained many detailed provisions for the registration and administration of charities as defined in the Act. A charity did not have to take any particular form, but it had to satisfy the requirements of the definition in section 96(1): "established for charitable purposes" and "subject to the control of the High Court in the exercise of the court's jurisdiction with respect to charities", as defined in section 97(1).

It was not expressly enacted nor was it plainly implied that the Act applied to institutions other than those established for charitable purposes in England and Wales. That was borne out by a survey of the Act's detailed provisions, which were inappropriate for bodies or institutions established outside England and Wales.

Although not a state institution, a charity was subject to the constitutional protection of the Crown, as parens patriae, acting through the Attorney-General, to the supervision of the charity commissioners as well as to judicial control.

English courts had never sought to subject to that regime institutions established for public purposes under other legal systems: see *Dicey and Morris, The Conflict of Laws* (12th edition (1993) vol 2 p1096) and, for example, *Provost, Bailiffs etc of Edinburgh v Aubery* ((1753) Amb 256), *Attorney-General v Lepine* ((1818) 2 Swan 181), *Emery v Hill* ((1826) 1 Russ 112), *Mayor of Lyons v East India Co* ((1836) 1 Moo PC 175) and *In re Marr's Will Trusts* ([1936] Ch 671).

The importance of such cases was that they showed that the English courts did not have the means of controlling institutions established and administered abroad.

The decision of the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords in *Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Inc v IRC* ([1954] Ch 672, 683, 685, 707; [1956] AC 39, 46, 47) was binding authority that "charity" in the 1993 Act did not include an institution established under the laws of another legal system. The obiter dicta of the court in *In re Duncan* ((1867) 2 Ch App 356, 360, 362) were inconsistent with the *Henry Dreyfus* and were not a correct statement of the present law.

Thus the mission was not a charity within the 1993 Act and the Attorney-General was not a proper party to be joined.

In the present case, it had been assumed, without deciding, that the purposes of the mission were exclusively charitable under English law, there was no intention to restrict the Attorney-General's constitutional role as protector of charity or to prevent the plaintiffs pursuing their proceedings in the absence of the Attorney-General.

Lord Justice Morritt agreed and Lord Justice Leggatt gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Markand & Co, Homerton.

Laudable motives limit copyright damages

Pro Sieben Media AG v Carlton UK Television Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment July 31]

While the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 laid down specific exceptions to the blanket scope of copyright infringement, laudable motives, for example for educational or public service reasons, for wanting to copy or broadcast any substantial part of protected material afforded no defence, save only to absolve defendants, if appropriate, from paying additional damages under section 97(2).

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, in giving judgment for the plaintiff, Pro Sieben Media AG, a commercial television company in Germany, against Carlton UK Television Ltd and Twenty Twenty Television Ltd, an independent production company.

Section 30 of the 1988 Act provides: "(1) Fair dealing with a work for the purposes of criticism or review, of that or another work or of a performance of a work, does not infringe any copyright in the work provided that it is accompanied by a sufficient acknowledgment.

"(2) Fair dealing with a work (other than a photograph) for the purposes of reporting current events does not infringe any copyright in the work provided that … it is accompanied by a sufficient acknowledgment."

Section 97 provides: "(2) The court may in an action for infringement of copyright having regard to all the circumstances, and in particular to (a) the flagrancy of the infringement, and (b) any benefit accruing to the defendant by reason of the infringement, award such additional damages as the justice of the case may require."

Mr Martin Howe, QC and Miss Charlotte May for the plaintiff; Mr Mark Vanhegan for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that in or about March 1996 Mandy Allwood, a single mother, while undergoing a course of fertility treatment, had become pregnant by her boyfriend and been found to carrying eight live embryos.

Under guidance, she became besieged with offers from the media, including the plaintiff, a well known German commercial television company which, inter alia, produced a daily, 30-minute, magazine programme called "TAFF". The upshot was a grant to the plaintiff of the exclusive right to exploit a filmed interview of her and her boyfriend and its incorporation in two satellite TAFF programmes on August 27 and 28.

Carlton had commissioned Twenty Twenty to make for it a series of 25-minute current affairs programmes, *The Big Story*, and on August 29 broadcast one such, "Selling Babies", which incorporated a 30-second clip recorded from one of those TAFF programmes; all without the knowledge of the plaintiff, or Ms Allwood, or her public relations consultant.

The issues were:

1 Were the defendants protected by the defence of fair dealing for the purposes of (a) criticism or review, under section 30(1), or (b) reporting current events, under section 30(2)?

2 If not, was this a case for additional damages under section 97(2)?

Section 30(1): Criticism or review

The defendants had failed to show that their display, in that clip, of the plaintiff's logo, just recognisable as a figure 7, the name "Pro Sieben" not being mentioned at any point in "Selling Babies", would be understood as referring to any person, let alone his connection with the clip. Hence it had not been accompanied by a sufficient acknowledgment and that defence failed.

But in addition, having studied the film and considered the evidence given by Ms Dorothy Byrne, its editor, his Lordship was not persuaded that criticism of the TAFF film, as distinct from the plaintiff's decision to pay for an interview, was in the editor's when her film was made or broadcast. Its primary purposes had been to proclaim that the defendants were above cheque-book journalism and to scoff at an anonymous German broadcaster for having paid money for an interview.

Section 30(2): Fair dealing for reporting current events

His Lordship was not persuaded that Ms Byrne considered the fact of a German interview newsworthy at all, or that that played any part in her decision to use the film clip. And he had no doubt that the use made of it was not, in all the circumstances, fair.

Section 97(2): Additional damages

His Lordship had no doubt that Ms Byrne sincerely believed that what she was doing was permissible and for the public good: also that her programme was not intended to compete with or to devalue the Pro Sieben interview. Therefore an award of additional damages was not appropriate.

Solicitors: Frere Cholmeley Bischoff; Henry Hepworth.

Considering unfitness of company director

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Ivens and Another

In considering whether to make a disqualification order against the director of an insolvent company, pursuant to section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, and there was evidence relating to companies, the only connection required was that the director was a director of both the insolvent company and collateral companies, and that his conduct in relation to each indicated unfitness to be concerned in the management of a company.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Brooke) so held on July 25 dismissing the appeal of Trevor Paul Ivens and Jane Hilary Ivens, directors of Country Farm Inns Ltd, against the judgment of Judge Weeks, QC, sitting in the Chancery Division on preliminary issues, that their conduct as directors of companies save Country Farm Inns if proved was "conduct as a director of any other company or companies" within section 6(1)(b) of the 1986 Act.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that not only no further connection was required but its implication would be contrary to the purpose of the Act.

Although the lead company had to have become insolvent (section 6(1)(a)), there was no requirement the collateral company should have done so.

Thus the fact that a collateral company was insolvent could not be a necessary, or indeed a sufficient connection.

Judge Weeks reached the correct conclusion for the right reasons and his Lordship disagreed with *In re Godwin Warren Control Systems plc* ([1992] BCC 557, 567).

Hearing appeal against sentence

Regina v Swindon Crown Court, Ex parte Murray

When hearing an appeal against sentence, a crown court should not carry out a review of the justices' decision, but ask itself what, on all the evidence, was the right sentence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Gage) so held on July 2 when allowing an application by Jason Murray for judicial review of the decision of Swindon Crown Court (Mr Recorder Lionel Read, QC and justices) to dismiss his appeal against a sentence of four months imprisonment imposed by Swindon Justices for driving while disqualified, contrary to section 103(1)(b) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that when a defendant appealed against a sentence imposed by a magistrates' court the crown court should carry out a complete rehearing of the issues.

Upon dismissing the defendant's appeal in this case the recorder had said: "There was nothing wrong in principle with imposing custody and no reason to disagree with the length of sentence imposed by the justices." That statement made it clear that the court had erred, by simply reviewing the justices' decision and not forming its own independent view of the matter.

A crown court should not ask itself whether the justices' sentence was within their discretion to pass but whether on all the matters it had heard, what was the right sentence.

Correction

In *Stone v Chataway* (*The Times* August 11) the instructing solicitors for Mr Clarke were Laytons.

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LEISURE PA - Fluent Spanish £23K + exc. Bens. A really unusual & varied role as right hand to young energetic chairman. Liaison with the very wealthy and plenty of client contact. W4W /Excel/ Powerpoint. Tel: Euro London Appts. 0171 583 0180.

NORWEGIAN bil PA for office Mgr role. Organise, liase & coord Busy media C. Accounts exp useful. £20K Language Matters 0171 930 1811

PARIS: Sheila Burgess Int'l urgently requires Bilingual (English/French) PA/Secs for int'l co's. 50wpm + Word/Excel. 120-300KF. Reg. interviews London. Fax cv 0033 1 44 63 02 59 or tel 0171 584 6446.

LES PM
(French Club 2-12 yrs)
Admin assistant Mon-Fri 9-1.
You will be a conscientious well presented person with fluent French & English With WP skills 50WPM.
You will be confident in dealing with the parents & teachers by telephone.
Send CV & photo with a covering letter in both French and English
Les Petites [illegible]
67 [illegible] Court
Ranelagh Gardens
London SW6 3RZ.

SPANISH/German/Doc/PA To Senior Partner. £20K + Bens. For well established Co in W1. Must have exc W4W + Excel. Urgent!! Bilingual People: 0171 491 2400/Fax 0171 491 1900

COSMETICS!
French spk Secs for Sales/Mkting div of prestigious Cosmetics Co. Various roles in young & dynamic depts. Sec exp & excl MS Office essential
LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT SERVICES
0171 287 0424

SWITZERLAND: English mother-tongue Secretary for legal dept of Int'l Sports Org. French useful. 50wpm min (Word & Excel). 55-65k SFr + relocation costs. Sheila Burgess Int'l. Fax cv 0033 1 44 63 02 59 or tel 0171 584 6446.

PA/SECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
Casino in plush Mayfair Casino HQ
Office management skills helpful
Spoken & written French essential.
£20,000.
0171 734 3454 AGY

VIETNAMESE speakers sought by Top Media Firm for Radio Production assistant role. £15K Very exciting position! Bilingual People Tel:0171 491 2400 Fax 0171 491 1900

Commercial Assistant
to Director of busy Marketing & Sales Co. dealing with Italian suppliers & UK customers. Excellent prospects to join fast growing small business. The ability to work effectively under pressure essential. Knowledge of Italian language preferred.
£14k + bonus
Contact: Miss K Warren
Tel: 0171 720 [illegible]

SUPER SECRETARIES

EXEC. pa to director-travel co. £19-25,000 Travel Industry knowledge and langs, pref. Exc. Sec/organisational skills, some overseas/UK travel. Tel 0171 709 3700 or fax on 481 2115 or (eve) 0850 978888.

GLOBAL OIL Company requires PA for Director of Strategy. Project work/international conferences/strong commercial awareness all required along with director level experience and MS Office, shorthand preferable. Please call Angela Mortimer plc 0171 287 7788

EXPERIENCED Medical Sec/PA req for Private general practice. Salary in excess of £20,000, according to experience. Please send handwritten letter and CV to Dr Robert Hancock, 82 Sloane St, London SW1X 9PA.

HEADHUNTERS 19,000. Exclusive West End agency needs a confident PA to co-ordinate their office. Charming company this will be a fun and relaxed role. Good prospects. Fax CV's 0171 734 4905 Sarah Stewart-Smith Rec 0171 734 5955.

EXECUTIVE PA c.£28K + Exc Bens. 1:1 PA to top exec of Int'l Co. Emphasis is on coord of travel/mtgs/corp hosp. You need to be a proactive self starter + problem solver to be 1 step ahead of your boss in his absence. Exc client contact in this front line, t/h role. A'level educ + MS Office, 4 yrs Blue Chip exp. 60wpm 28-45 Jacqui Next Emp 0171 287 3664

HAMMERSMITH - £17,000+ Fab Bens - International media company requires an excellent Sec/PA who thrives on working in a fast paced, dynamic environment where flexibility is crucial. If you enjoy trouble shooting, have fast typing (60wpm), Word4Windows and Powerpoint, please call Andrea Murrell on 0171 434 4512, Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

REC/PA - music travel co £16,500 W4W 50wpm Young, lively environment. Exc. prospects & bens. Call Alison or Sally on 0171 709 3700 or fax on 481 2115 or (eve) 0850 978888.

£22K plus Exc Bens. Management Consultants - City. PA with distinct prospects for Snr. Partner of one of the best and most prestigious employers in town. First class skills. 55 wpm. W4W/Excel/Powerpoint Euro London Appts Tel: 0171 583 0180 Fax: 0171 353 9849.

MARKETING company requires an energetic and busy Office Manager to be responsible for a number of aspects including marketing, accounts and personnel. Ideally 24-35yrs with accountancy skills and a managerial aptitude. Situated in the heart of London with a £25k salary. Please call Susanna Hargreaves on 0171 434 4512. Crone Corkill Rec. Cons.

POWERPOINT - Advanced level - £20,000 W1. Large int'l management consultancy needs several powerpoint wizards to work as part of a busy team. Must be good organiser, able to prioritise and work under pressure with a good education. Great benefits. Jigsaw Rec 0171 373 7779.

TOP law firm req top legal secs. Non legal secs also considered. Good audio speeds and WP skills ess. £22K (AAE) Francine 0171 287 3391. P.L. Agy

£30,000 + superb benefits. PA with superb organisational skills and shorthand for international bank, W.1. Must have board level multi-cultural experience. 0171 377 8600, Secretaries Plus, the secretarial consultants.

WINE Trade Office Manager, computerised accounting experience essential. Nearest tube Bank. c£18,000. Call Catrin Rowlands at Susan Doughty Recruitment 0171 491 7911.

RECEPTION SELECTION

DENTAL Secretary/Receptionist required for Cavendish Square, W1 Practice. Full/Part time. Previous dental experience desirable. Tel 0171 580 1017

BUSINESS Centre requires people orientated Floor Manager. Very much a service role requiring warmth, maturity and the desire to provide a first class service. £13,500 0171-493 2888 Heritage Rec.

RECEPTION SELECTION

'DIAMONDS ARE A GIRLS BEST FRIEND'
£18,000
Bond Street jeweller req's well groomed receptionist. The environment is fabulous - you will be working alongside beautiful objects in a young friendly team. Reception experience useful & typing min 40wpm. Age 20's.
NORMA SKEMP RECRUITMENT LTD
65 NEW BOND STREET
LONDON W1
Tel: 0171 491 0707

CITY PR - RECEPTIONIST
Attractive salary
Fast growing City PR firm seeks a bright, outgoing and energetic receptionist. Experience of Word for Windows 6.0 will be important.
Please apply in writing enclosing full CV and current salary details to:
Vera Ing, Focus Communications Group, 30 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AN
Fax: 0171 [illegible] 1365

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE
Administrator required for small rapidly expanding financial services company based in Euston.
Must be flexible and a team player.
W4W essential.
Salary c£18,000.
Send full CV Box No 7550

RECEPTIONIST/Switchboard Operator. £11-14K. 6 months exp on Meridian Option 61 50 lines x 300 extensions, or similar switchboard. Int. Publishing House. Contact Concept Int. Rec cons. Tel: 0171 306 3262 Fax: 0171 434 0700.

RECEPTION SELECTION

A fabulous opportunity exists for a professional receptionist (early to mid 20's) with 45wpm typing. Meeting and greeting experience with some switchboard knowledge is essential. Hours are 8.30-5.30 and salary is £15K-£18K. Interested? Call Pan European on 0171 734 8484 or fax us your CV on 0171 734 8501.

CENTRAL London c.£20,000 + exc. bens. 'Top Person for Top Job!' Friendly company seeks front line Receptionist / Telephonist who is vibrant, charming, and full of energy. Dealing with Captains of Industry will be one of your duties in this fast moving, friendly and rapidly expanding company. Beautiful offices. 40wpm typing. Windows WP. Switchboard. Please call 0171 437 3212 Summer By Two Rec Cons.

RECEPTIONIST/Administrator for TV company in Central London. Secretarial & strong client liaison skills essential. CVs to Box No 7574

REC/TEL for prestigious Plc in Mayfair. Must be very presentable, mature and have switchboard experience. Absolutely beautiful offices. £16,000 0171-493 2888 Heritage Rec.

REC/TEL - Your day will "fly" working for this buzzy, warm & welcoming W.1 Law firm. £15,000 + dress all + perks. Tel: 0171-556 7075/ fax: 0171 556 7475 B&Y Agy

TEMPTING TIMES

£23-27k basic + bonus + paid o/time for 4 exc team spirited secs urgently sought for immediate temp to perm positions in exclusive Int'l City Co. Langs and/or SH useful but not ess. Fax CV ASAP on 0171 355 1395. Mainstream (Agy) 0171 495 1830.

SUPERSEC - Word, Excel, Powerpoint, 60+ wpm for Senior Director, S.W.1., s/h useful. Imm. start 0171 493 7001, Secretaries Plus, rec.cons.

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR
Required for friendly busy Clerkenwell based office. Ambition and hard work acknowledged, recognised and rewarded.
Stirling Ackroyd
0171 251 0770.

NON-SECRETARIAL

ANTIQUE Gallery SW1. Asst able to deal with clients and general admin. Bright personable computer literate driver. Full/part time ASAP 0171 235 1817

HAD ENOUGH?
If you are a brilliant Secretary but want more, train to be a Property Negotiator with exclusive Knightsbridge Estate Agents where every day is different. The lucky girl (21/30) must want to sell, be accurate audio typist & computer literate, have clean driving licence - and love dogs!
Tel: 0171 589 5481
Fax: 0171 584 9339.

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

HARBOUR ESTATES LTD
CHELSEA HARBOUR SW10
Experienced lettings negotiator required with managerial experience and also sales ability when required. Essential to enjoy working in a team atmosphere in a small friendly office. Basic salary commensurate with experience plus commission on lettings and sales.
Tel: 0171 351 2300

ESTATE AGENCY
SALES NEGOTIATOR
Basic Salary
Commission & Car
Professional person with excellent communication skills required by Central London Agency. Experience preferred, but not essential. Immediate start.
Phone Gabby Fell
Kenwoods
0171 402 3141

ABERCORN Estates - Sales / Lettings Negotiator required with knowledge of Kensington/Chelsea areas. Tel 0171 235 6618.

TRAINEE Negotiator - cum - secretary in Knightsbridge - see todays ad in Non-secretarial.

NON-SECRETARIAL

BOOKKEEPER req to job share Bursarial duties in girls' prep school in Kensington. You should be computer lit, with experience in Sage Accounting. 2 days per week to suit. Salary according to exp. Apply to The School Sec, Falkner House, 19 Brechin Place, London SW7 4QB: 0171 373 4501.

SECRETARIAL TEACHER Required (Training provided where required) F/T - P/T Small Private Secretarial College, Hammersmith. Must know Microsoft Office, Teeline SH advantage.Contact: Mrs O'Brien Ravenscourt Tutorial College 28 Studland St, London, W6 0JS Tel: 0181 846 8542

ADMIN assistant, £17,000. Customer focused? Assist with the smooth running of the offices (stationery, couriers, post, printing etc.) for an oil co. 0171 493 7001, Secretaries plus, rec.cons.

PART TIME VACANCIES

ANTIQUE dealer based in London W1 urgently seeks numerate secretary to work from 2-6pm mon to fri. The successful candidate will be mature, aged 35+ with a good working knowledge of Windows 95. This vacancy would suit a well-educated person with an interest in the Arts. For immediate appointment ring Part Time Careers Ltd 10 Golden Square, London W1. 0171 437 3103.

EDUCATION - £15,000 pro rata. Senior Consultant of small advisory consultancy requires PA/Sec for 2 days per week. Unpressurised but busy role. Constant liaison with schools and parents. Interest in private schooling essential. 40 wpm typing. Call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required by ENT Surgeon to manage Private Practice. Central London Location. 4 day week. Motivation & exc communication skills ess. Tel. 0171 928 7315/ 0181 858 4536.

20 hrs per week - £8 per hour. Well organised secretary is needed by roving inventory service for properties in central London. PC & Modem provided for work at home. Jigsaw Rec 0171 373 7779.

RECEPTIONIST £8,000. Exclusive Mayfair Property Development Co. Smart, professional person with sense of humour. 3 day's a week. Call Suze at St James's Cons. 0171 589 1846.

PART-TIME - based Knightsbridge working mornings only, 8.30-1.30. Managing small reception area and switchboard. Previous reception experience essential. £9,600. Call Alison Scott on 0171-434-4512. Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

RECEPTIONIST (2-4.30pm) req'd to front highly successful Ad. Agency and rub shoulders with TV stars! Young, fun and modern colleagues! Age 20's. No typing. Anderson Hoare 0171 824 8821.

WIMBLEDON VILLAGE - Part-time Receptionist - circa 10k - Multi-faceted company needs an experienced receptionist to work 8.30-2pm in their lovely offices. This is a responsible role which involves liaising at all levels, overseeing suppliers, keeping log books up to date and general reception duties. Excellent telephone manner and flexible attitude essential. Please call Jennifer Palmer on 0171-434 4512. Crone Corkill Rec. Cons.

PART TIME VACANCIES

PETWORTH W. Sussex Antique shop needs p/time asst. Bright enthusiastic with admin/sec skills. 0171 235 1901.

MEDICAL SECRETARIES

MEDICAL Secretary, £20,000. Eminent Harley St. Plastic surgeon requires PA/Secretary, 30's-40's. Draft correspondence; shorthand useful. 0171 493 7001, Secretaries plus, the secretarial consultants.

PROFILES

MATURE English lady graduate French and German, seeks position in Customer liason/ marketing/ export no ties. Please Reply to Box No 7567

LEGAL LA CRÈME

SOLC in EC4 req med. negligence sec up to £22k fantastic opportunity for someone with at least 2 yrs exp. 0171 353 3100

LEGAL SECRETARY
£20,000.
Secretary with commercial conveyancing experience required to work for Solicitors in the West End. Fast, accurate typing and Windows knowledge essential. Call Acme Appointments on 0171 629 7232.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
BOX No:- ......
c/o THE TIMES
P.O. BOX 3553,
VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON, E1 9GA

NNEB or Montessori Teachers
We are recruiting for two additional Nursery school teaching positions for our Nursery School in SW6 to work full-time, Mon-Fri 8-6pm & to start asap. Candidates should have had previous experience, be artistic bubbly & genuinely love children. Please call on 0171 385 2458 or fax your CV on 0171 385 2458. Salary £12-£15K pa.

COURSES

GET the IT skills and qualifications you need to succeed in today's high-tech business environment
- WP
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL
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TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 481 4000

PRIVATE SALES

FAX: 0171 782 7799

LONDON, CHISWICK -

Strand on the Green.

Superbly presented Edwardian 3 bedroomed terraced house in Chiswick W4, retaining many original features, in much sought after Strand on the Green.

Newly refurbished throughout including new roof & fitted kitchen. Small south facing garden.

£287,000.

Tel: 0181 995 8515

PALACE GARDENS TERRACE, KENSINGTON

Refurbished to a very high standard. 1 bedroom flat with separate study, fully fitted kitchen/breakfast room, reception room, bathroom. Second floor, period house, wood strip flooring. Leasehold 77 years, shared Freehold by separate negotiation.

PRICE GUIDE £255,000, NO AGENTS.

Tel/Fax: 0171 937 8824

EATON AVENUE NW3

4 bedroom 3 bath (1 en-suite). Very large apartment, with large living room and seperate fitted kitchen. Own large private patio and mature garden, off street parking. Private entrance and video entry phone. Newly decorated, carpets and curtains included. Private sale, Owner moved abroad. Price: £450,000

Phone:0956 360 772

MAYFAIR SW1

Substantial 2 bedroom flat.

Good natural light. Quiet aspect. Lower ground floor. Lift. Patio. Very long lease. Beautifully paved large terrace. Low service charge.

Offers in excess of £240,000.

Telephone 0171 448 5144

SOUTH KENSINGTON

3 Bedroom Town House Reception, dining room, fully fitted kitchen, study, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, parking space, 991 lease.

£770,000

(No Agents)

Tel No: 0171 724 1973
Fax No: 0171 724 1940

KENSINGTON
LOFT - STYLE SPACIOUSNESS

In private mews off Ken high street, stylish modern, architechtural. conversion providing generous high-ceilinged accomodation.

Plus unique studio or large second bedroom with its own services on seperate floor.

Garage and private parking.

Freehold £595,000.

Tel: 0171 937 7727

COUNTY HALL, Westminster Bridge.

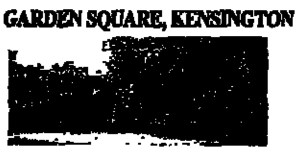
2 bed luxury apartment. 2 baths, (1 ensuite). Lounge, Dining room, fully fitted kitchen, all fully fitted with unused brand-new furniture and fittings.

998 years lease with car park. Gym and swimming pool. For Sale Direct by Owner. No Agents.

£243,000, includes all furniture

Tel: 01932865669 for Appointment to view

QUIET GARDEN SQUARE, KENSINGTON SW5



Large beautifully renovated raised ground floor apartment with mature private garden (36' x 21').
Stunning drawing room with high ceilings and original fireplace.
Master bedroom suite comprising double bedroom, bathroom and dressing area.
Second double bedroom, with large gallery, 2nd bathroom.
Fitted kitchen, cloaks.
Lovely aspects. Access to garden square.
Would make excellent rental investment.
£335,000. Tel 0171 581 2512, mobile 0467 684974.

HAMPSTEAD BORDER, LYNDALE AVENUE, NW2

Wonderfully spacious double fronted family house in wide tree-lined quiet residential road. Excellent position for public transport, schools and shopping facilities - close to Hampstead Heath and 15-20 mins West End. 2 large, high-ceilinged Reception Rooms, Study, 25' Kitchen/Breakfast Room, 6 Bedrooms (4 dble, 2 sgl), 2 Bathrooms (1 ensuite), 2 cloakrooms. Recently installed top-quality double-glazing throughout. 70' mature secluded and sunny garden with lawn, shrubs and patios. Garage and long driveway for 3/4 cars. Lovely!

Tel 0171-794 1502. No Agents Please.

£549,000 Freehold

FULHAM, SW6 - Riverside Penthouse

This light and spacious (1,250 sq ft), 2 bedroomed property is primely positioned within a brand new, high quality development, next to the Hurlingham Club.

Both the living room (25' x 17'3") and the master bedroom (18' x 18'6") feature double height, vaulted ceilings and full length French windows; opening onto a private 400 sq ft terraced roof garden with SW views over the river. Ensuite bathrooms to master bedroom and to second bedroom (12' x 11').

Fully fitted kitchen with all mod cons. Reception hall with seperate cloakroom. Secure underground parking. (999 year lease). £425,000.

Tel: 0181 946 7450

NOTTING HILL - LONDON

BALLIOL ROAD W10 - Rare opportunity to transform 2 flats into superb family house on soughb after Saint Quintins Estate. Secluded and pretty garden. Quiet leafy street just 10 minutes walk from Portobello Road. 4/5 bedrooms. £325,000

Tel: 0181 969 5843

SHEPHERDS BUSH W12

Charming, Edwardian maisonette with private patio garden. Centrally situated in a quiet tree lined avenue. Seperate sitting room & dining area, fitted kitchen & 2 bedrooms. Excellent decorative order, original fireplaces, stripped pine doors & floors retained. Internally propery is bright and adaptable. Easy walking distance of local shops & tube stations.

Vendor not in chain so quick sale assured £127,500 (leasehold).

Tel: 0181 740 0044

ALTENBURG GARDENS SW11.

Newly modernised 1st floor flat. Two double bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Lounge. Kitchen, diner. Garden. Share of freehold.

POA.

0171 6420869(am/pm)

LONDON W1 - MARYLEBONE

Set in a quiet, yet central West End location, double fronted period house arranged over 5 floors. The building provides luxurious versatile accommodation comprising 5/4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms & 1 extra shower, 3 reception and eat-in kitchen, 2 patios, video entry and alarm security system.

Price £745,000.

Tel: 0171 706 7333

CHISWICK - W4

Elegant Grade II Listed Georgian property overlooking Turnham Green. 3 bed, 2 bath, 20' 1st flr drawing room with 3 full-length sash windows, dining rm/library, kit, utility rm, large attic & bsmt storage. 40' front gdn and shared private patio gdn at rear. Leasehold 87 years. OIRO £349,500

Tel: 0181 747 4766

PINNER, MIDDLESEX

Superb detached spacious bungalow consisting of 6 rooms, conservatory, large new fully fitted kitchen, 2 luxury bathrooms, 2 drives, 2 garages, new gas central heating, near underground station (Pinner). Park and local amenities nearby.

Freehold £247,500

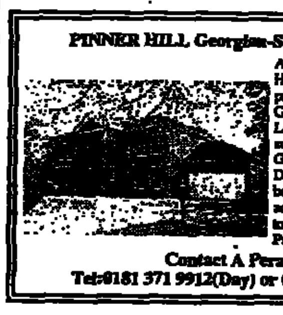
Please contact 01895 835082 or 0850 734822

18th Century Timber-Framed 2 bed Cottage,

with well equiped Barn. Pleasant Suffolk village 10 *miles from Southwold. Brick* garage, timber workshop, and thatched Crannog Hut, with central fire place. 2/3 acre gardens surrounding the property, mainly lawn, with fishpond and trees.

£129,000. Phone 01986 798617 for details.

PINNER HILL Georgian-Style House in Pinner



A delightful Georgian-Style House (Nearly 1 acre) in a private estate of Pinner. Next to Golf Club, 20 mins tube to C. London. 5 Bedrooms, 3 with en-suite bathrooms, Family & Guest bathrooms, TV lounge, Drawing, Dining, Study & beautiful modern Kitchen, ½ acre garden & D. garage. Ready to move with carpets & curtains. Price ono: £975,000.

Contact A Peracha, on
Tel:0181 371 9912(Day) or 0181 340 7791(Eve)

CENTRAL POSITION IN LONDON - HYDE PARK
BETWEEN MARBLE ARCH AND LANCASTER GATE

On garden square with residents' use. *Substantial modern house*. spacious twin reception room, large dining room, modern fully fitted kitchen, utility room, boiler room. Large cellar, patio, 5 beds, 4 baths/ shower rooms, (2 ensuite) equipped to high standard. Guest cloakroom. Exceptionally bright house with triple aspect and Garage attached. Additional resident parking with local authority permit. Close to all services. Hyde Park 2 mins walk. *Lease to middle of next century, low Ground Rent. Enfranchiseable with freehold applied for and assignable.* OIRO £ 985,000.

Tel: 0171 402 7271 Fax: 0171 724 0388

DOCKLANDS ROTHERHITHE TUDOR COURT

New 2 bed, 2 bath luxury 4th floor Apt. Fully fitted kitchen & bathrooms. Dual access balcony, direct river frontage, secure underground parking. Excellent for new Jubilee line extension.

£192,500.

Tel: 01903 261339 (Home)
Tel: 0411 138758 (Mobile)

PENTHOUSE APARTMENT IN A MOATED GEORGIAN HOUSE

On the edge of Yalding, Kent, the property enjoys lovely rural views. 2 reception rooms, 2/3 bedrooms, 2 baths (1 ensuite), FF kitchen, garage. Communal gardens, private drive. Ceilings 8'9" high throughout. London 50 minutes by train, Gatwick 45 minutes, easy access motorways. £175,000

Also 1 bedroom garden apartment in same house. £75,000

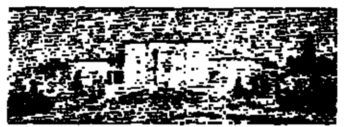
Tel: 01622 820475

SHEPPERTON, MIDDX
Luxury Riverside House

Thames island with boat access. Two bedroom suites, three reception rooms. Superb new fully fitted kitchen, mature garden. £279,950

01189326068

THE MANSION, OTTERSHAW PARK, SURREY



Stunning penthouse apartment spanning the top floor of this imposing listed building with panoramic views over the Surrey countryside. Standing in 13 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens with indoor pool and tennis courts. Entrance hall, 3 double Beds (all ensuite). Octagonal dining room with marble floor. Drawing room with small balustrade balcony, Kitchen, Utility, Breakfast room/ Study. (In all approx.3,000sqft.) Lift. Double garage and visitor parking. C.London 22 miles, M25 2, Heathrow 12, Chertsey and Woking 5 miles.

£575,000. TELEPHONE: 0181 870 7773/5

GABLE HOUSE, LINDFIELD, SUSSEX

Country house (built 1911 renovated 1984 later improved) in private lane adjacent golf course, set in 1.33 acres of grounds. Five double bedrooms (two en suite), inclusive of annexe, large reception/dining hall, drawing room, dining room, cloakroom, study, kitchen, breakfast room, utility room, conservatory, detached double garage, gas c/h, superb decorative order, standing in formal and informal gardens 120' frontage. close to shopping, railway London 47 mins, or Gatwick airport. No chain.

Region £450,000.

Further particulars 01444 414553.

BARNES/ MORTLAKE

Top floor mansion flat. Close to river.
3 bedrooms, separate dining room, fully fitted kitchen, large living room. Private 30ft South facing roof terrace. Seperate access to communial gardens. Secure access by entry phone. Reduced for quick *sale* £157,500.

Tel: 0973 732740

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A Grade II Listed stone rectory in the market town of Thrapston. 4 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, bathroom & shower room. Large south facing rear garden

£235,000. TEL 01604 32991

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Ideal second home, 3 bedrooms, bathroom & shower room, with excellent views overlooking golf course.

Includes life memberships of golf and health club.

£95,000 Long Leasehold. Tel: 01604 32991.

FRAMLINGHAM, SUFFOLK.
Close to Castle.

Restored Grade II 15c House with many original features. 5 recep. 28' Kitchen, 4/5 Beds. 2 Baths, Gas CH. Courtyard, Rear Garden, Outbuildings.

PRICE: £285,000 ono

TEL: 01728 724638

DEBENHAM

Substantial spacious prominent c 1850 Victorian (Georgian) family brick/slate house set in open farmland on riverside edge of village

6 Double beds, 4 recep, kit, bath etc 2 large utility rooms. Treble garage, outbuilding stable, tennis lawn, c 1 acre

Guide Price £285,000

Tel: 01728 860901

FOR SALE

Outstanding detached bungalow, 3 bedrooms, lounge 24 feet by 16 feet with Italian Marble fireplace. Kitchen in White and Gold. Utility room, superb bathroom, shower and bath with Gold Taps, dining room. Gas centrally heated. Double glazed. Furnished carpets, curtains, leather suite. Available immediately. Garage 70 feet by 40 feet back yard for parking.

HEATHROW AREA £215,000

Tel: 01784 256436

ORCHARD LODGE, BUNNY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

A rare opportunity to own an individually designed family home set in the Nottinghamshire countryside. A superb, traditionally styled 2,900 sq. ft. family home set in an individual private plot of just under half an acre 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, Large breakfast kitchen Enjoys enviable location with open views over countryside to the front and an orchard to the side of the property

Anticipated completion mid January 1998 NHBC Registered Builder

Price: £298,000 - viewing strongly recommended

Contact: Renata or Andrew on 0115 933 4643/0850 323878

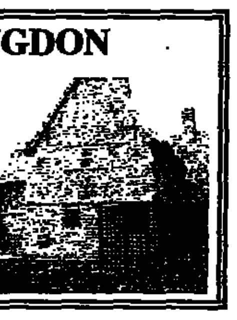
WEST YORKSHIRE RASTRICK

Only an internal inspection will reveal the true splendour of this unique detached residence which occupies an elevated position overlooking the Calder Valley & across the river Calder itself. The property displays a wealth of character from the random stone clad fireplace in the spacious lounge to the luxurious kitchen which features a comprehensive range of Neff appliances, floor & wall units complimented by a Maple wood stripped floor. 2 reception rooms & utility room, separate w.c. Dble garage/workshop. Basement with external access. 2 bedrooms & a quality bathroom. Drive & gardens. Gas combination boiler providing central heating & instant hot water & is mainly double glazed. Planning permission granted for a further two bedrooms & second bathroom.

Offers over £[illegible] FOR QUICK SALE. NO CHAIN + FREEHOLD.

VIEWING BY TELEPHONING 01484 718558 or 01484 432682, further details.

HUNTINGDON



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A modern 4 bed villa with large mature gardens in the peace and seclusion of an idyllic country setting. Close to Benllech beach and shops, 15 minutes from the island's bridges and Bangor, Chester a little over an hour's drive and Central London 3 hours, 25 minutes by train.

Ideal retirement, holiday or family home.

Large family Bathroom with corner bath (the main bedroom has an ensuite shower room), fully fitted kitchen adjoining dining room and comfortable lounge with stone-set open fireplace. Sunny courtyard patio to rear of villa.

£125,000 Freehold Tel/Fax: 01232 744352 for details.

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Ideal Holiday/Retirement Home. Superb flat in prestigeous block on sea front. Large bedroom en-suite with separate shower and bath.Cloakroom, modern kitchen, South sea facing balcony with magnificent views of Bournemouth Bay. All in excellent decorative order. 24 hour porterage, lifts, underground garage.

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STRATFORD UPON AVON

10 minutes walk to the theaters. 5 minutes to town and river. Ground floor flat of character in a Victorian detached house.

Entrance hall with Mosaic tiled floor.

Drawing room, breakfast room/ kitchen with seperate utility room and cellar, large L shaped conservatory, 2 bedrooms(1 single, 1 double), bathroom with power shower.

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High spec. 1988 trad 4/5 bed detached house on 2 acres in pleasant village. 7 mins nat m/way network + railway station. 3 baths, luxury 32' swimming pool, snooker room, conservatory, open countryside aspect, ½ acre lawned area, small fishing lake, GFCH, double glazed, hardwood doors / windows.

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Built 1920's, tastefully raised to 90's standards.
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Picturesque South Devon Coastal village. Small village shop with off-licence & community Post Office. Includes detached 3 bedroomed house and self contained 1 bedroom ground floor flat. FF kitchen, large lounge, recep/study, bathroom. Large garden. 2 garages. All year round and holiday trade. Ideal early retired/ second income.

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Spacious architect designed detached house in quiet prestigious location. Approx 2000 square feet. South facing, labour saving luxurious, lockable and leavable 20 yr old house built to a high specification to a Spanish design, with hardwood joinery throughout, with galleried ballustraded staircase and 15 pane doors. Fully D/G with gas C.H, and a comprehensive security system. Four double bedrooms (1 ensuite), 2 luxury bathrooms, fully fitted dressing room, lounge, dining room, very large fully fitted kitchen/breakfast room. Sun lounge. Utility room. Detached garage and easily maintained small landscaped patio garden, Immaculate condition.

£185,000

01392 877546

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Unique opportunity to acquire two delightful cottages with Two Steadings, an Old Mill and all set in 2 acres of ground with stunning views. There is considerable development potential and the property is ideally suited for a variety of purposes. Accommodation: Cottage 1: Hall, Kitchen/ Dining room, lounge with balcony, family room, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, double glazing, solid fuel CH. Cottage 2: Hall, sitting room, dining kitchen, utility room. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, double glazing, large Byre with double doors to side. 2 steadings, original Old Mill

OFFERS OVER £148,000

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School- Hall with double aspect pine staircase, large kitchen, utility room, dining room, lounge, superb stone-built conservatory overlooking landscaped gardens. Well appointed office, en-suite W/C, 3 telephone lines. Easily adapted for B&B.

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An exceptional waterside property. 2.6 acre site *Magnificent views over Loch Broom.*

A house of rare character, large drawing room, sitting room, beautiful appointed kitchen, Four bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms, studio, large garage, outbuildings & walled garden. Private deep water shore line.

Offers in excess of £260,000.

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Fifteen minutes from Competa Village.
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Water and electric. Satellite Television.
Asking £115,000
Secluded country lovers hideaway.
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MALLORCA, THE BALEARICS

Don't miss out BUY NOW @ 242Pts/£1 - Almost 30% better than last year but now falling. Countryside location on the outskirts of Cas Concos, 10km Cala D'Or. (Golden Triangle). Asking 24m Pts. Permission for 200m² house on 15,000m². Total project management (Legal/Design/Construction) can be organised if required. Mains electricity, own drinking water.

Also mooring in Cala D'Or 10m x 4m - best position in Marina asking 6.5m Pts.

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Tsadha Village. Hilltop cottage (1993). Near Golf Course - 2 bed / 2 bath, lux kitchen, spacious living room w/fireplace. Huge sunny ver's and pretty garden. Panoramic views of Paphos and Med. Use of pool. Elegantly furnished and fully equipped. View Sept/Oct/Nov.

STG. 78,000 ono Cash.

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£345,000.

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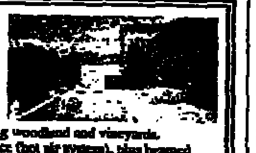
Modernised 17c Farmhouse with adjoining Barn for conversion. Exposed beams, bread oven, many original features. Covered terrace and gardens. Rural position on edge of village.

£35,000 Telephone: 01873 881041

FRANCE TARN - CORDES
2 Restored stone cottages.



With outlook down surrounding woodland and vineyards. Big cottage with kitchen and fireplace (hot air system), plus beamed salon on a lower level, bathroom. 1st floor 3 double bedrooms with guest toilet. Total 150 sq m. Big terrace with BBQ and pool with solar heated water. Barn beside (possible to extend). Small cottage with fully equiped kitchen, bathroom, big bedroom 1st floor. About 4 acres of land and garden. *Good rental potential.* £150,000.

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Unspoilt Granada Coast

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£65,000 ono. Inspection visits arranged.

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FRANCE Cote D'Azur, Gulf of St Tropez

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FRANCE

ST. TROPEZ (7 mls) This charming rose covered villa with southfacing large terrace, in an idyllical rural hamlet is beautifully renovated & set in country garden of 1 acre, with swimming pool. The house has 2/3 double bedrms, 2 bathrms, stylishly designed kitchen & spacious living rm. £ 240,000.

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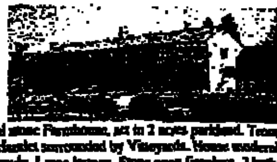
Superb residential property overlooking Latchi Harbour and the Bay of Chrisocous. 40 mins from Paphos airport. Spacious accom inc. 3 bedrm suite all with panoramic balcony views integral granny flat or maids quarters and detached guest house in the grounds. Built to the highest possible standards and arguably one of the finest homes in Cyprus. Large immaculate grounds with large swimming pool.

Circa $2,000,000 or equivalent. Video avail.

Tel: owner / occupier. 00 357 9647 696.

DORDOGNE, NR BERGERAC



Traditional stone Farmhouse, set in 2 acres parkland. Trout stream. 10m x 5m pool. Hamlet surrounded by Vineyards. House modernised. 3 D/B's, 1 D/B or study. Large lounge. Stone open fireplace. 2 bathrooms. Fitted kitchen, dishwasher, 2 fridges. Breakfast room. Utility room washing machine. Central heating. Store room. Garden furniture and equipment. Tractor, mower, bikes. Bar-B-Q and etc. Ready for occupation. £140,000

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LA HERRADURA (GRANADA)

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25,000,000 pts.

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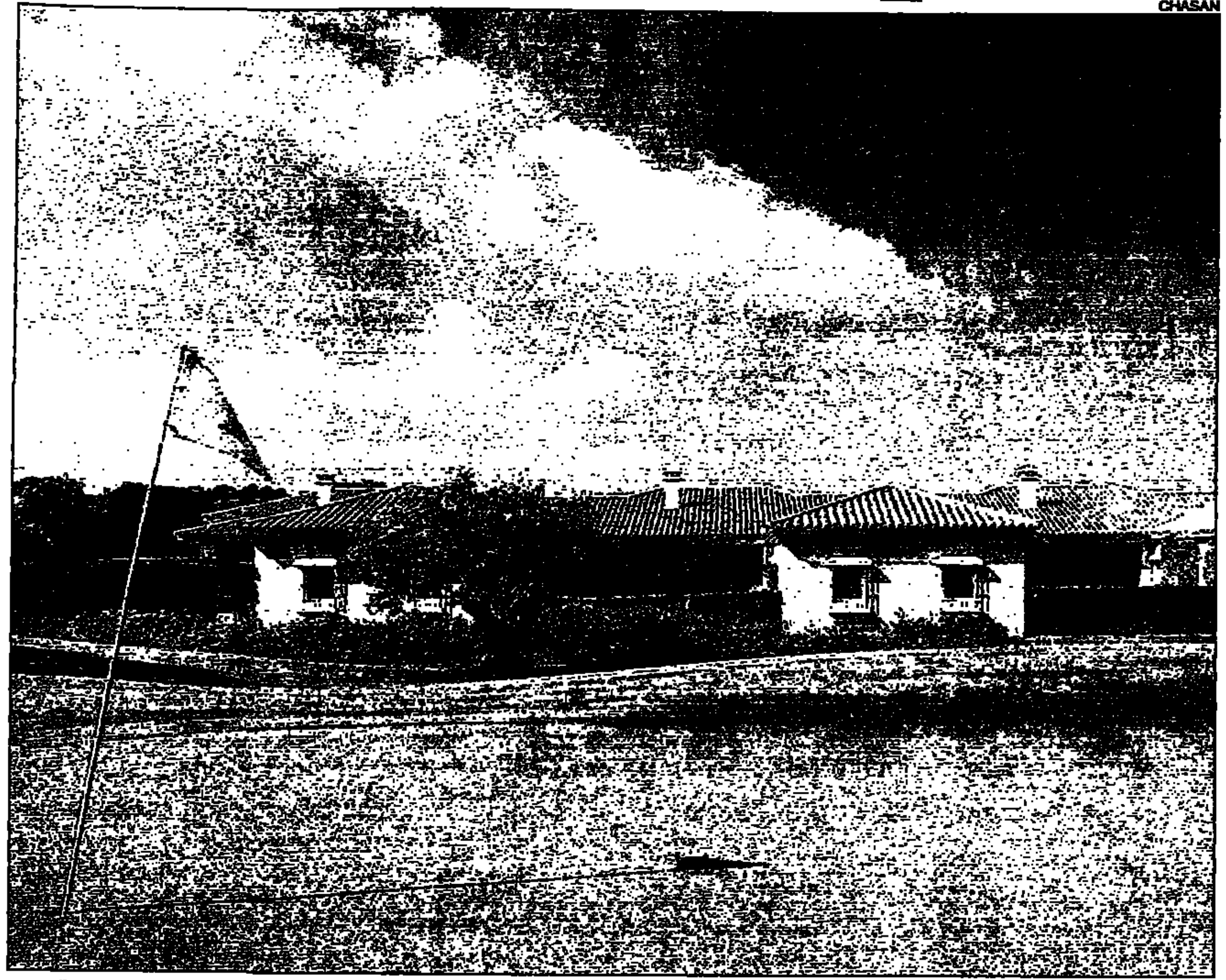
هدية من الأهرام

Swing towards Spain

Diana Wildman on how the Ryder Cup has brought buyers to Valderrama


CHASAN

Los Patios de Valderrama villas are in a courtyard edging the seventh fairway and part of the nine-hole short course

Golf's ultimate competition — the Ryder Cup — is taking place this weekend at Valderrama Golf Club, set within the 4,000-acre Sotogrande leisure estate in southern Spain. With 30,000 ticket holders expected each day and 600 million television viewers tuning in, the area is preparing itself for worldwide recognition.

Sterling's strength against a continuing weak peseta combined with the booming British economy is, for the first time in six years, attracting the British buyer back to the Costa del Sol.

Vastly improved road links now mean that Sotogrande is a 75-minute drive from Malaga airport and only 15 minutes from Gibraltar and this, combined with the massive publicity the Ryder Cup is generating, has already resulted in an upturn in sales.

James Stewart, director-general of Valderrama, which has its own sales division linked to Sotheby's International Realty in London, says: "We will never obtain publicity like this again. We have sold 17 plots of land at Los Altos de Valderrama, our private estate edging the fourth and fifth greens and fairways.

"Most of these have been to members who already own property within Sotogrande but who now want to upgrade. Prices range from about £90,000 for an acre plot to more than £250,000 for more than two acres in prime position. For a buyer keen to acquire a completed home, we have a spacious four-bedroom villa in one acre, with pool and spectacular views, for an asking price of £600,000."

Valderrama Estates is also selling the remaining five town houses of 19 at Los Patios de Valderrama costing from £230,000 to £400,000 for the three-to-six-bedroom homes situated in a courtyard edging the seventh fairway and part of the nine-hole short course.

Mr Stewart adds: "There are already 37 golf courses along the Costa del Sol, but what we have lacked on this coast are major leisure investors to bring in facilities to complement these such as Disneyworld. There are vast amounts of space here and we surely have, in this wave of publicity, the opportunity to create a sophisticated leisure region."

To the east of Sotogrande, 15 minutes' drive from Marbella and set in the Benahavis foothills, is La Zageleta, a magnificent 2,200-acre estate complete with private golf course, riding club, tennis, trout and carp lakes, shooting range and deer. A sophisticated, secure, private estate, there are plans to build a maximum of 400 homes. To date, 45 houses have been completed and 95 plots sold. Prices for a plot start at £350,000 for two acres and from £1 million for a four-bedroom house complete with pool and stunning views. Three of the latter are now ready for occupation. Naomi Greatbanks of Knight Frank, the UK agent, says: "The facilities, which include a bar and restaurant, are solely for the use of residents and their guests, guaranteeing a relaxed and private atmosphere."

Nicholas Wells-Hunt, a spokesman for the estate, says: "There is no doubt that the Ryder Cup is affecting the whole coast. This estate is for the wealthy, keen on total seclusion who are prepared to pay £10,000 a year to keep the golf course, stabling and the clubhouse facilities for owners' use only.

"Most purchasers prefer to choose their own location, drawing up their own plans and build under our supervision. But there is always someone who wants to move in quickly, so we have a small selection of completed properties available."

> 'There is no doubt it is affecting the whole coast'

The Sotogrande estate is taking the opportunity given by the Ryder Cup to change its previous image as an elegant summer hideaway into a complete tourist centre. Candida Taylor, commercial director, says: "Sotogrande is diversifying. We used to market only real estate, with facilities including a private marina, two golf clubs and two beach clubs. Now we are opening a pay-and-play 18-hole golf course called Sotogrande Alto. Its focal point will be a 150-bedroom hotel with health spa and leisure centre, which is due for completion within 18 months. For the first time, we plan to let our properties through tour operators and will include golf and beach club facilities."

Sotogrande SA is selling new marina properties at between £83,000 and £330,000. There is also a selection of classically styled three and four-bedroom detached houses set in a minimum quarter-acre plot adjacent to, or with views over, the new golf course. Prices are from £175,000 and include a share in the privately owned Sotogrande Golf Club.

That the Ryder Cup will bring enormous publicity to this southernmost region of Spain is not in doubt. It is to be hoped that local planning authorities will take advantage of any increased investment to agree to practical but sensitively designed commercial and residential developments.

- *Valderrama Estates 00 3456 791206, fax 00 3456 794507; Knight Frank 0171-629 8171, fax 0171-753 0638; Sotogrande SA: 0171-351 2385, fax 00 3456 790350*

Simon Brooke on the demand for show homes

Showing off the finished article

The "show flat" or "show house" is an increasingly important marketing tool for property developers and estate agents. Louise Counsell, of Try Homes says: "Some people are saying that though the demand for properties is great, there is no need for show flats, but they have been proved wrong. Show homes can maximise values and help to close a sale, as well as help buyers to visualise completed properties."

Try Homes has two developments on offer, each with a show flat. The Pipe Building overlooking the Thames in Fulham is a development of one to four-bedroom loft apartments, many with double-height ceilings. The aggressively modern style meant that the show flat needed furnishings and accessories to suit. Gail Taylor, of the interior designers TMH, went for bright orange easy chairs and abstract prints in the living room. In the mezzanine dining area she chose a natural wood dining suite in severe geometric style.

Peninsula Barracks, a development of flats and townhouses in a 17th-century military encampment in the centre of Winchester, Hampshire, required a more classic look. Comfortable chairs and tables, patterned wallpaper and fabrics were placed alongside antiques. "It has to be more than the buyers would do for themselves, but not too grand," Ms Taylor says. "You don't want to put people off."

Like most developers, Try Homes researches its potential clientele, then briefs the interior designer on the style and tone of the show house. The designer will buy furniture, fabrics, pictures and everything from cutlery and crockery to linen and lampshades. Ms Taylor adds: "You have to 'accessorise' everything. We even buy bottles of olive oil for the kitchen." Antiques are usually rented from dealers.

The show house is the first item in a development to be built or refurbished. This can put pressure on the designers. Ms Taylor says: "The developer might insist that the flat is launched the next day, in which case you find yourself working until midnight amid wet paint and men in hard hats. You often see beautiful settees being carried in across muddy building sites."

Fountain House in Park Lane, Mayfair, which comprises four substantial penthouses on offer for up to £4 million, was launched 18 months ago. One was developed into a show flat, and, as often happens, this was the first to sell. The other three remained unsold until a second was chosen to become a show flat. This was snapped up in days, and now the developers are considering furnishing and decorating the remaining two.

For the layman, working out how to make full use of a large space can be challenging. Jane Rodney, who was responsible for the interior design of Fountain House, says: "People wonder where to put a dining table or settee. Even if what you've done is not to their taste, they can at least get an idea. Sometimes they will rip out everything you've done, but commission you to give the property a new look."

Ms Rodney has become a show flat expert. She works on the more expensive properties with a budget of up to £300,000, and the prestige of her projects allows her to borrow expensive antiques and furnishings. "You're trying to do something that appeals to everybody," she says. "It's got to be gorgeous, and if it's for a £4.5 *million property it has* to be grand. I usually go for the Mid-European look rather than the classic British style: strong colours and striking materials. I used fabric that was £900 a square metre on cushions in one property; but they really made the room.

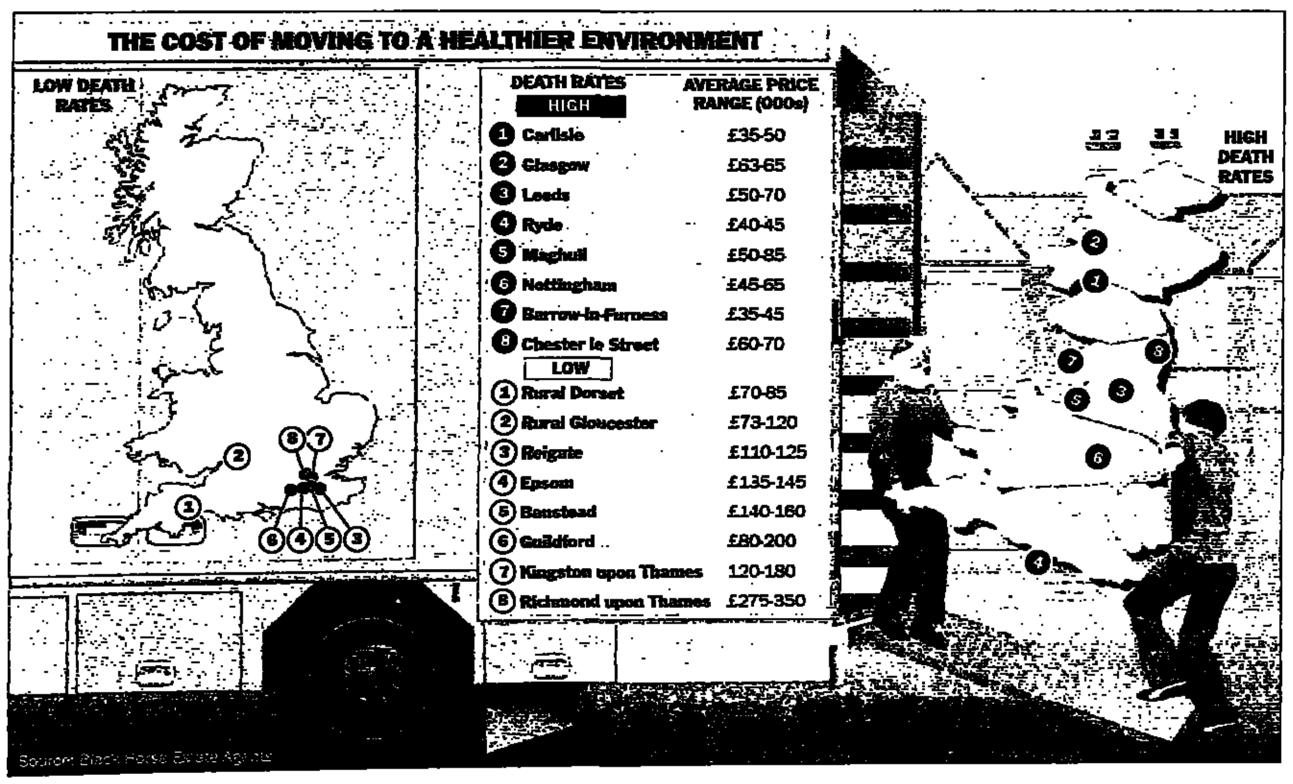
"Since the 1980s, the standard has shot up. We use the best marble in the bathrooms, and the house is often wired for music in every room. Wardrobes have to be lined with sycamore and kitchens must be luxurious and have every imaginable appliance."

At the top end of the market, foreign clients often buy the entire contents of the show flat, from settees to cutlery, because they do not want the inconvenience of furnishing and equipping a London base themselves.

The usual practice with show homes is to exchange contracts but put completion off for some months while the other homes are being sold. As yet no developer appears to have a requirement for a show family.

Jane Rodney chose a Mid-European look for Fountain House

THE COST OF MOVING TO A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT



DEATH RATES	AVERAGE PRICE RANGE (000s)
HIGH	
❶ Carlisle	£35-50
❷ Glasgow	£63-65
❸ Leeds	£50-70
❹ Ryde	£40-45
❺ Maghull	£50-85
❻ Nottingham	£45-65
❼ Barrow-in-Furness	£35-45
❽ Chester le Street	£60-70
LOW	
① Rural Dorset	£70-85
② Rural Gloucester	£73-120
③ Reigate	£110-125
④ Epsom	£135-145
⑤ Banstead	£140-160
⑥ Guildford	£80-200
⑦ Kingston upon Thames	120-180
⑧ Richmond upon Thames	£275-350

Source: Black Horse Estate Agents

A new North-South divide

Eve-Ann Prentice reports on links between housing and mortality

WHERE you live in Britain may affect how long you live, a report out last month indicates. So how much does it cost to live in areas where you can expect to live longer? Evidence of a widening North-South divide in life expectancy and in property prices emerges in two sets of figures published this summer.

Glasgow residents are 66 per cent more likely to die prematurely than people living in rural Dorset, and 31 per cent more likely than those living in Bristol, according to a study published by the Rowntree Foundation. Residents of Oldham, Salford and Greenock are almost 33 per cent more likely to die before they are 65 than the national average, it adds.

A survey of house prices in Britain, published just before the Rowntree report, shows that homes in places with the highest life expectancies are the most expensive. Eight times as many boys aged one to four died in Manchester between 1990 and 1992 as died in rural Gloucestershire, the Rowntree survey showed. The average price of a semi-detached house in Manchester is £56,100, compared with £73,363 in Gloucestershire, reveals the Halifax report on national house prices for the second quarter of this year.

Dr Daniel Dorling of the University of Bristol, who compiled the report, *Death in Britain: How Local Mortality Rates have Changed: 1950s to 1990s*, examined statistics for death rates of infants, adolescents and adults by sex throughout England, Scotland and Wales. A baby girl born in Leeds is more than twice as likely to die in the first year of life as one growing up in a town in Dorset. The average price of a semi-detached in Leeds is £57,450; a similar house in Dorset costs £69,549.

Death rates for baby boys in Halifax and Preston are almost double the national average, the Rowntree Foundation survey shows. The average semi-detached in Halifax costs £53,150 and in Preston it is £59,900 — both well below the national average of £68,166.

Though the Rowntree report shows isolated pockets of high mortality rates in the South, the majority of higher-than-normal death rates are to be found in the North. No link should be made between house prices and death rates, but the figures show that people wanting to move from a high to low-mortality rate area may not be able to afford to do so.

> 'Patterns of varying life chances need to be looked at'

Among places with the lowest premature and child death rates are Totnes in Devon; Wimborne, Dorset; and Reigate and Epsom in Surrey, where, according to the Black Horse estate-agent chain, prices for a three-bed semi range from £70,000 to £145,000.

Early childhood mortality rates for boys in Dewsbury, west Yorkshire, Bethnal Green, in the East End of London, Manchester and St Helens on Merseyside have doubled since 1981, Dr Dorling found. And there has been an increase in deaths among pre-school girls in Birkenhead, Manchester, and the Isle of Wight. Mortality rates for boys and girls aged five to fourteen increased during the 1980s in Salford, rural Carmarthenshire, St Helens, Nottingham and Bethnal Green.

Dr Dorling says: "This study does not seek to speculate on the reasons why divisions between different parts of the country have become so pronounced. However, it does seem that the trend has occurred too quickly to be explained simply by a changing distribution of wealth, changing causes of death, or as a reflection of past health inequalities. These patterns of varying life chances need to be investigated."

The Halifax survey meanwhile shows that Greater London still tops the national house price league: average semis cost £133,722. Of 62 counties listed, the top ten are all in the South. West Wales — average price £42,482 — comes bottom.

As part of the World Health Organisation's Targets for Health, Britain has made a commitment to reduce health inequalities by the year 2000. The report published by the Rowntree Foundation concludes that the mortality differences will make the target extremely difficult to achieve.

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MAVEA LATITUDES HOTEL DU GOLF
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DECEMBER 20	14	£999
DECEMBER 27	7	£699
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FEBRUARY 21	7	£699

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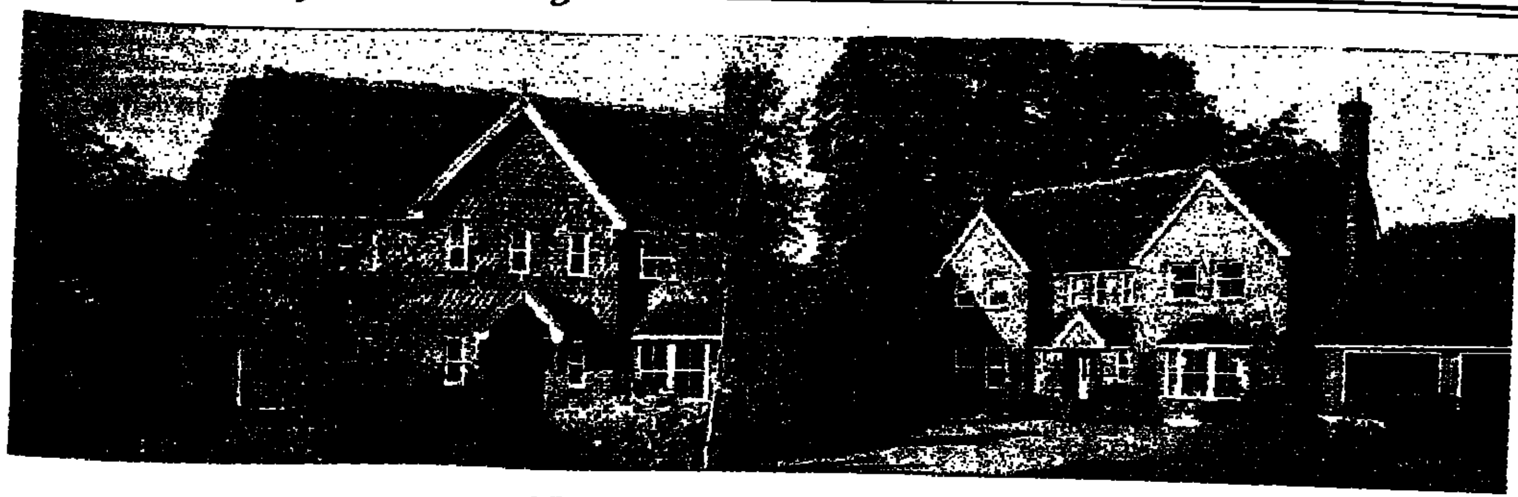

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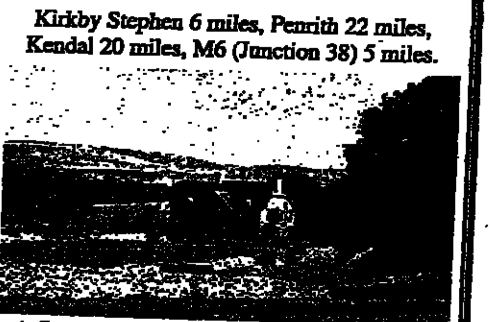

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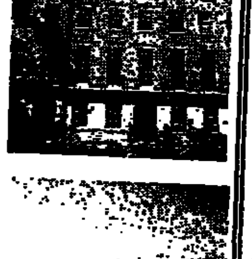

A selection of prestigious one and three bedroom apartments set in this attractive period house overlooking the garden. The apartments have been refurbished to a very high specification. Prices from £200,000 to £450,000

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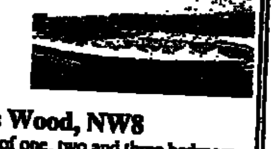

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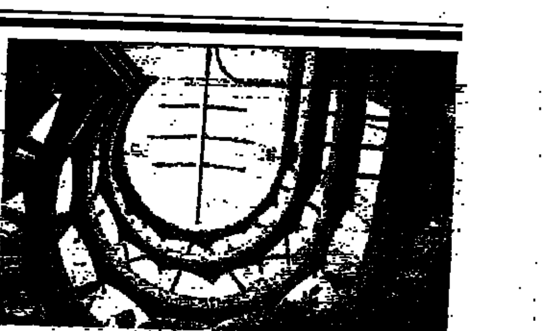

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Speedway salutes elder statesman

Tony Hoare meets a brave rider who defied the odds to complete 25 years on the track

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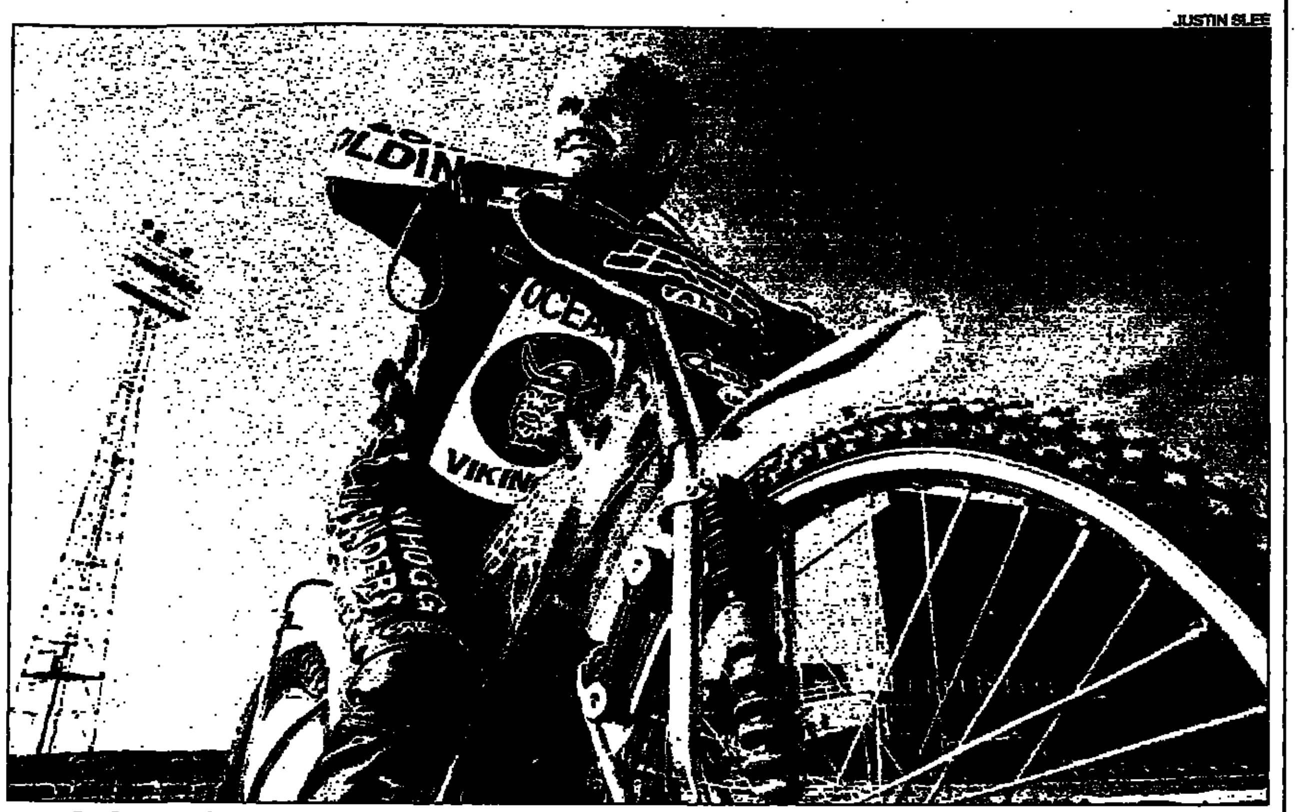

Grahame, whose career appeared to be over 11 years ago, celebrates his silver jubilee in the sport tonight

Eleven years ago, Alan Grahame did not dare to imagine that he could extend his speedway career long enough to celebrate 25 years in the saddle. In 1986, Grahame was 32 and an established England international rider when he was told that he had Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer that attacks the lymph glands.

Despite the severity of his condition, Grahame was determined to fight his way back to fitness. He stopped riding for only six weeks, when the treatment he was receiving meant that his blood had taken too much of a pounding. Grahame, a plucky racer, called on that resource to beat the disease and become one of the sport's elder statesmen.

Tonight, at Craven Park Stadium, where Grahame is No 1 for Hull Vikings, he will celebrate his quarter-century as a speedway rider with a testimonial meeting. Grahame has ridden for seven British League clubs since he started out with Birmingham, his home town club, and admits that the celebrations tonight will be an emotional occasion.

Known as "Big Al", he has enjoyed a highly successful career. He rode as a reserve in the 1984 world championship final and finished second to his younger brother, Andy, in the 1982 British championship. The dark days of 1986 will always mark his career, however. "I thought it would possibly finish me, never mind my career," he said, "but modern medicine is amazing and I have a lot of fighting spirit as well. I came through it."

The cancer was at an advanced stage and Grahame was immediately taken into hospital for the first bout of treatment. To carry on racing through the gruelling sessions of chemotherapy and radiotherapy was a remarkable achievement.

"I had to dig down very deep and find my will to live," Grahame said. "I had to fight it all the way and not give in. I tried to ride through it. Some people said I was stupid and should have had a break from it, but it was my living and I was going to try to ride whatever."

He returned to Cradley in 1987, his testimonial season, but it all became too much for him and he had to be rested from the team. Grahame rode in his benefit meeting and was such a success he was immediately reinstated.

After slowly fighting his way back to form and beating the disease, Grahame completed his comeback by playing a starring role in Cradley's 1998 *Speedway Star* Cup victory. Cradley, having won the competition for the third year in succession, were given the trophy permanently. It was immediately handed to Grahame to keep.

"I will never forget that for as long as I live," he said. "I was on cloud nine. It was a relief to be back. I'd had a couple of lean years and it was so nice to be feeling good again."

The trophy now sits in the lounge of Grahame's home in Sutton Coldfield, where his daughter keeps it polished. As he prepares to celebrate his silver jubilee, it serves as a reminder of the lows that he went through.

Even now, Grahame, who also runs a motorcycle shop near his home, has been fighting pain to take his place in his testimonial. A troublesome shoulder injury was recently operated on, but he insists that he will be riding.

"For the past ten years people have always been asking when I am going to retire," he said. "I always say: 'In a couple of years, just a couple of years.' Here I am now getting ready for 25 years. It has come around quite quickly really."

RUGBY LEAGUE: SHEFFIELD CAPTAIN ONE OF FIVE PLAYERS ADDED TO SQUAD FOR AUSTRALIA SERIES

Britain plump for consistency of Broadbent

By Christopher Irvine

THERE are few more loyal, consistent or respected players than Paul Broadbent. The Sheffield Eagles captain, a late arrival on the international scene, is certain to add to his five Great Britain appearances in the British Gas series against Australia in November.

Broadbent, 29, is one of five additions to the Britain "train-on" squad, which will be completed after the Stones Premiership final between Wigan and St Helens, at Old Trafford on Sunday. He is joined by his club colleagues, Nick Pinkney and Keith Senior, and by Dean Sampson and Jason Flowers, both of Castleford.

Belated recognition of Broadbent as one of the few consistently outstanding prop forwards came when he was selected 11 months ago for the South Pacific and New Zealand tour. This year his form was recognised with selection in the 1997 Stones Dream Team.

Broadbent is more assured of a place in the team at Wembley, on November 1, than Senior, who made two appearances on tour last year, and Pinkney, who represented England in the 1995 World Cup.

Sampson is another experienced contender for the front row, while the selection of Flowers, whose last representative call was in 1994 for the Great Britain Academy team, recognises his progress at full back for Castleford.

SQUAD: Backs: P Atcheson (Oldham), S Blakeley (Salford), G Broadbent (Salford), F Cummins (Leeds), M Crompton (Oldham), S Edwards (London), J Flowers (Castleford), I Harris (Leeds), N McAvoy (Salford), S Naylor (Salford), M Offiah (London), N Pinkney (Sheffield), J Roper (Warrington), J Scales (Bradford), K Senior (Sheffield), S Spruce (Bradford), P Sterling (Leeds). Forwards: D Bradbury (Salford), P Broadbent (Sheffield), A Farrell (Leeds), M Forshaw (Bradford), C Gillespie (Halifax), B McDermott (Bradford), S McNamara (Bradford), A Morley (Leeds), T Newton (Leeds), P Rowley (Halifax), D Sampson (Castleford), P Sculthorpe (Warrington)

Sumptuous sporting spectacle enriched by the Gazza Factor

SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

Golf — stop me if I've said this before — does not stir my blood. But when Severiano Ballesteros is around, I am inclined to take notice. Ditto Tiger Woods. So much so that I might even switch on the television to watch the Ryder Cup this week, thereby swelling the ranks of the floating voters of sport, caught, not by history and tradition and the prospect of a good old sporting scrap, but by personality. Personality is what television does best. It flattens and cheapens the action: but it invariably captures, to the point of caricature, personality.

Horse racing, like golf, is one of those sports you either like a lot or you don't like at all. But if you have not heard of Fallon and Godolphin and Entrepreneur, you have certainly heard of Frankie. A year ago this weekend, Frankie Dettori rode all seven winners on the year's richest day of racing.

The feat was remarkable, but had it been performed by Kieren Fallon, we would not have made the same fuss. Here, though, it is necessary to explain who Fallon is. He is the jockey who is more or less certain to be the champion this year. There are a lot of very good racing stories about him, but racing stories they remain.

Dettori's magnificent seven became a national sporting legend, as opposed to a mere racing legend, because of . . . well, let us call it the Gazza Factor. His ability and his victory was added to his public nature. Dettori's exuberance in victory is wonderfully at odds with the buttoned-up traditions of British racing. His flying dismounts make wonderful pictures. And racing, a sport that is never quite as popular as it wants to be, falls on its knees and gives thanks.

The Gazza Factor is the ability to break down the barriers of sport. The Gazza Factor touches people who are not interested in that particular sport, and it reaches out farther, to people who are not interested in sport at all. The last personality to manage that in horse racing was Desert Orchid.

Gazza managed it for football eight summers ago. The progress of England into the knockout stages of a significant international tournament always brings in the floating voters.

And in Italy in 1990, Gazza — we need not bother with his name, need we? — caught the imagination of the floating voters of sport by his wonderfully inventive football, and his famous bout of tears. Thus football burst the banks of its usual stream of popularity. Football became fashionable again: and perhaps a good deal of its present extraordinary popularity goes back to the tears of Turin.

The Gazza Factor need not happen in mainstream sport. It happened in the charmingly daft sport of ice dance: who will forget T and D? They became national icons. The definition of an intellectual is a person who can listen to *Bolero* without seeing a mauve-clad couple slithering about the ice.

Frank Bruno became a national love object, despite the fact that he was involved in the unlovely business of boxing. His act grew pretty stale, but the genuine charm behind it did not. I don't know how many of Bruno's floating voters actually watched his fights — that would have rather spoilt things — but Frank himself rode the Gazza Factor for all that it was worth.

Patriotism is often an aspect of the Gazza Factor — Ian Botham certainly conformed to that one in his time — but it is not essential. Perhaps more than any other sporting icon, Olga Korbut possessed the Gazza Factor in overabundance. Before the Olympics of 1972, gymnastics was a sport that was considered worthy rather than sexy. But Olga transformed it from top to bottom, and her legacy remains. Gymnastics attracted the biggest audience of the entire Games in Atlanta. She — rather like Frankie — possessed an incandescent delight in what she did. She was, in a word, adored.

Genius alone does not make for the Gazza Factor, nor achievement at the very highest level. Pete Sampras, Steve Redgrave, both wonderful athletes, do not possess it. The Gazza Factor is something strange and capricious and delightful. It cannot be contrived — though Bruno did his best — and it cannot be controlled. Any sport that has a Gazza must revel in it, and hope that the effect lasts. As for spectators . . . well, we can just lie back and enjoy it. At the weekend, football and the rest take second place to golf and racing, and the reason is the Gazza Factor.

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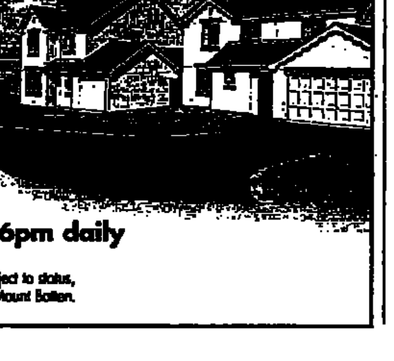

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TENNIS

Rusedski too strong for Woodbridge

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

GREG RUSEDSKI advanced into the quarter-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup here yesterday after a fitful display against Todd Woodbridge, of Australia. The British No 1 recovered from a poor start to prevail 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 and secure a match against Yevgeni Kafelnikov.

It was a far from impressive display from Rusedski, whose thunderous service kept him in the match against a jaded opponent. Woodbridge, who only arrived 24 hours before the match after Australia's Davis Cup defeat against United States, quickly established a 4-0 lead as Rusedski's timing deserted him on the fast indoor carpet. However, the Australian doubles specialist could not sustain his effort in the face of Rusedski's service-led assault.

Rusedski served 20 aces in the match and frequently hauled himself back from the brink with a succession of winners. Never was his principal weapon better employed than in the last game of the match, when Rusedski, facing two break points, never had to deal with a return in completing his victory. It says much about the match's overall standard that Woodbridge, who served 14 double faults, was able to detain Rusedski for so long.

Rusedski was not at his best, but still proved too strong for Woodbridge, whom he conceded was "fatigued" after his Davis Cup exploits. "I got better, more consistent wth my serve, after the first set," Rusedski said. "I thought Kafelnikov played exceptionally well [in beating Sergi Bruguera] and playing him is going to be a great test for me."

For all the money being thrown at the 16 competitors, there was undoubtedly something missing when the opening shots were traded in the Compaq Grand Slam Cup here yesterday. The opening-day matches lacked glamour, the atmosphere was consequently subdued and the four first-round losers will have perished with $100,000 (about £60,000) apiece by way of consolation. The plain truth about this heavily contrived event is that it only really starts when Boris Becker takes to the court.

Part of the problem has been the passage of lesser-ranked players to the latter stages of the grand slam tournaments this year, the criteria by which selection to the 16-player party is made. Filip Dewulf, of Belgium, a first-round loser at Wimbledon and in the US Open, and a second-round casualty in Australia, comfortably made the cut on his surprise journey to the semi-finals in the French Open. While Cedric Pioline's grand-slam record brooks no argument, the Frenchman's match against Dewulf was hardly likely to raise the pulse. So it proved: the pair made their entrance to the strains of a grand fanfare and a near-deserted auditorium.

If that seemed a touch ridiculous, the match's conclusion was one of high farce. Dewulf, who started the contest with both ankles heavily strapped, tripped over a ball that he attempted to kick in frustration at missing a routine volley during the first set. He required medical attention before taking the set into a tie-break, which he lost 7-4. Then, at 2-2 in the second set, and with his movement clearly restricted, Dewulf sheepily downed his racket and retired. In labouring on, Dewulf was perhaps hoping that Pioline's own physical problems would catch up with him. On Friday he had withdrawn from France's Davis Cup-tie against Belgium with an injured back.

Marcello Rios sloppily dropped the opening set before asserting himself against Mark Woodforde to win 6-7, 6-3, 6-1. His reward is a match against Pioline for a semi-final place.

Pete Sampras opens his campaign today and will collect $500,000 in bonuses as soon as he strikes the first ball against Felix Mantilla. Winners of grand-slam events collect a bonus of $250,000 per event just for attending.

RESULTS

FIRST ROUND: C Pioline (Fr) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 7-6, 2-2 ret; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-4, 6-3; M Rios (Chile) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-7, 6-3, 6-1; G Rusedski (GB) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 4-6, 6-1, 7-5

Pioline keeps his eye on the ball as he powers his way to a lucrative victory over Dewulf yesterday

SAILING: ALL-FEMALE CREW LEFT LANGUISHING IN WAKE OF LEADERS

Whitbread fleet picks up speed

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE first potentially significant split in the ten-strong Whitbread round-the-world race fleet occurred yesterday when the yachts, having been bunched in light airs on their way past Ushant, accelerated unevenly southwards in moderate conditions into the Bay of Biscay.

The main beneficiaries were the boats to the east of the pack as the breeze filled in from the land. The first to pick up speed were Paul Cayard's *EF Language*, Grant Dalton's *Merit Cup*, Knut Frostad's *Innovation Kvaerner*, and *Silk Cut*, the British entry skippered by Lawrie Smith.

The big losers were the all-female crew in *EF Education* which had briefly led the fleet in the calms and the fog on Monday, when the skipper, Christine Guillou, of France, and the navigator, Lynnath Beckley, of South Africa, opted for a slightly more westerly course than the rest of the fleet.

The decision proved costly. The women found themselves in a hole and spent several frustrating hours simply stemming the current before eventually getting away. During one six-hour period yesterday, *Merit Cup* averaged 11.6 knots while *EF Education* managed 6.5 knots.

At the front of the fleet the positions remained tight last night with just four miles separating the leader, *EF Language*, from *Silk Cut* in fourth. There was then a 15-mile gap to *Chessie Racing* in fifth place with Chris Dickson's *Toshiba* three miles further back in sixth. The last group was led by *America's Challenge*, 52 miles adrift of the leading boat. *EF Education* was 82 miles behind the leader in last place.

All the boats have been having trouble with seaweed being lodged around their keels and several skippers have sent crewmen overboard to free it.

On *America's Challenge*, Ross Field, of New Zealand, who won the Whitbread 60 class last time in *Yamaha*, provided a revealing insight into the uphill struggle he faces, having joined the boat just days before the start.

"This is a long learning curve," he said yesterday. "We have been having electrical problems and have had someone up the mast fixing instrumentation. We have been trying to line up with other boats to see the angles we should be sailing at, and looking at sail combinations and crossovers.

"The crew is settling in, and on some points of sailing, the boat is an absolute bullet. I am very aware that other people have been sailing for nine months to a year, whereas I have had less than four hours at the helm, so it will take a few days to settle in."

RUGBY UNION

McGeechan and Telfer link up for Scotland

BY KEVIN FERRIE

IAN McGEECHAN and Jim Telfer are being reunited as Scotland seek maximum benefit from having provided the coaching team that guided the British Isles to victory in South Africa.

Speculation over McGeechan's future has been rife since he rejected the chance to coach England, while making clear his eagerness to remain involved at the top level. Telfer also has declared his preference for more of a hands-on role as Scotland's national director of rugby.

Richie Dixon and David Johnston remain the national coaches. McGeechan, under an agreement with his club, Northampton, will work with the Scotland side on a part-time basis, in the build-up to an immediate aftermath of international matches.

Telfer, meanwhile, effectively becomes the coach of Scotland's 40 other full and part-time professional coaches, as well as being directly involved with the national side.

"Every ambitious coach should want to coach Scotland," Telfer said. "What we want to do, therefore, is to provide a pathway to the top for coaches and a structure that allows us to jointly develop a certain distinctive Scottish brand of rugby. To help us achieve that, I am taking on more responsibility for coach development at all international levels."

Duncan Paterson, the executive board chairman of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), said that he was delighted at McGeechan's decision to continue working with Scotland. "Ian chose his own folk over England. We are very fortunate to have the two men who led the Lions in South Africa, together with our national coaches."

Telfer said yesterday he had taken a leading role in persuading McGeechan that his future lay north of the border, rather than with England.

IN BRIEF

McCulloch cruises home over Foulds

NEAL FOULDS, the former snooker world No 3 now languishing at thirtieth in the rankings, was beaten 5-0 by Ian McCulloch, of Preston, in his opening match of the season in the third qualifying round of the German Open at Hereford yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

McCulloch, who will meet Anthony Hamilton for a place in the final stages of the tournament at Bingen in December, extended his unbeaten sequence this summer to five matches, a record equalled by Quinten Hann, 20, from Australia, who reached the last 32 by beating Mark King, runner-up in the Regal Welsh Open eight months ago, 5-2.

☐ **Bowls: Richard Corsie, the Commonwealth Games champion, has had to drop out of the Scotland team for the European outdoor team championship in Guernsey today. His place is taken by George Adrain, the world triples champion.**

☐ **Basketball: Chris Finch, the Sheffield Sharks captain, was denied a work permit to coach the team for the second time in two months yesterday. The ruling by the Employment Department was upheld on the grounds that Finch did not possess the requisite coaching qualifications.**

☐ **Cricket: Northamptonshire have been cleared of making an illegal approach to Gavin Hamilton, the Yorkshire seamer. The case was brought before the England and Wales Cricket Board's disciplinary panel, which dismissed the complaint.**

☐ **Real tennis: Penny Lumley, the world champion from Britain, suffered her first defeat by a woman in four years when she lost 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the French Open at Fontainebleau to her compatriot, Sue Haswell, a former lawn tennis junior international.**

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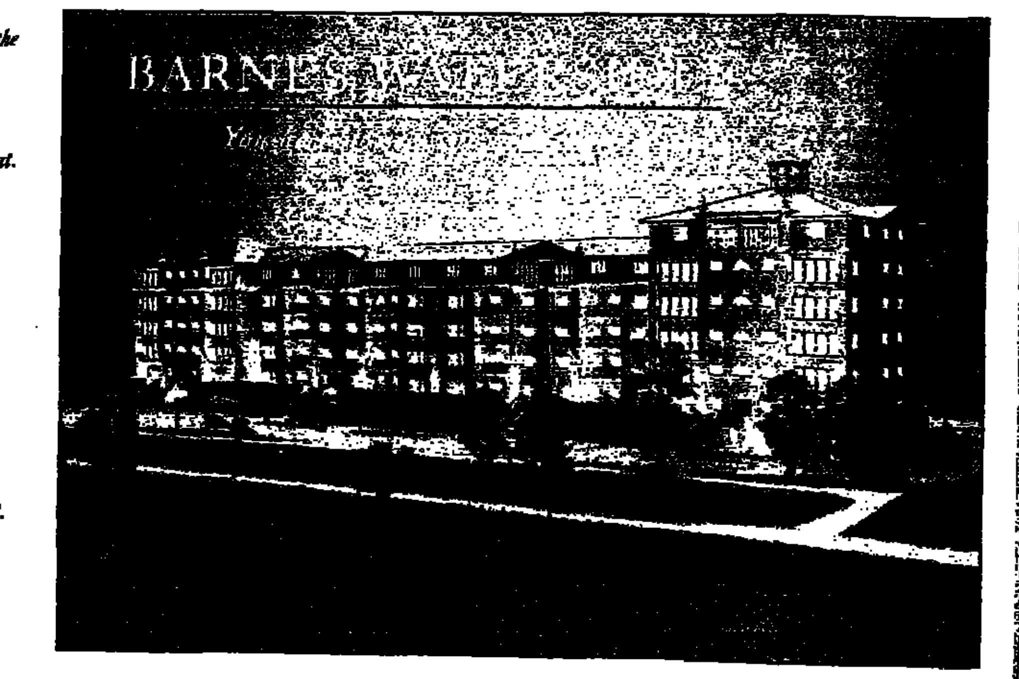

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هكذا من الأهرام

RACING: ENCOURAGEMENT OFFERED FOR ASCOT OUTSIDERS

Rebecca Sharp ready to put best foot forward

By Chris McGrath

WITH half the field taking their first, gingerly steps without crutches, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot could well reduce punters, in financial terms, to the condition of walking wounded themselves. It would duly seem prudent to approach with imagination a market dominated by Entrepreneur, Revoque and Sahhare, three colts whose medical records make *War And Peace* resemble a business card.

It was easy enough to be emboldened, listening to the connections of two outsiders yesterday. While Entrepreneur is only 2-1 with the Tote, 25-1 is still available about Rebecca Sharp, and Coral offer 33-1 against Faithful Son.

Yet Rebecca Sharp is a group one winner over the Old Mile, having defied the same odds in the Coronation Stakes at the royal meeting.

She has since sandwiched one good run with two less edifying efforts, reminiscent of her 1,000 Guineas failure. Last time, in the Prix du Moulin, she was produced cruising but failed to muster the expected turn of foot against Spinning World, fading into seventh.

Given that the Coronation was slowly run, there must be a suspicion that she does not last a truly-run mile. Yet, Bijou D'Inde apart, there is a conspicuous lack of early pace on Saturday, and Rebecca Sharp — who has such a serene, gliding action — will relish the fast ground.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ROYAL GROUND
(2.00 Goodwood)
Next best: Sandstone
(3.30 Goodwood)

Geoff Wragg, her trainer, said: "Perhaps they went too fast at Longchamp. She came there to challenge but then rather petered out, so maybe she had been run off her legs. I thought she had run well at Deauville the time before, when she looked like trotting up until Daneskaya suddenly appeared. She is a funny old dear, but has definitely got the ability and is working well."

Faithful Son has also disappointed after looking an exciting prospect. But both his defeats came over undulations, at Epsom and Goodwood, and he has since preserved his unbeaten record on galloping courses, winning at Doncaster. His would, doubtless, prove a poignant success for his trainer, Michael Stoute, who has nursed Entrepreneur back so tenderly after he injured a hamstring in the Derby.

Joe Mercer, Maktoum Al-Maktoum's racing manager, said: "Doncaster was an easy warm-up for him, and he will stay well. Michael says that he's certainly eligible to take part. He followed Entrepreneur up the gallops recently, breezing happily on his tail."

Saturday's race is the highlight of what has quickly become a showpiece fixture and, as such, another incentive to Newmarket's efforts to invigorate its status as Headquarters. Yesterday new sponsors were announced for the Dewhurst Stakes on Champions Day, October 18.

Along with the Middle Park Stakes, the Dewhurst has been backed by the Thoroughbred Corporation, representing the equine interests of the Saudi prince, Ahmed bin Salman. Prize-money on the card has now been pumped up to £735,000, the Dubai Champion Stakes dominating at £400,000-guaranteed.

Peter Player, the course chairman, said: "This meeting was losing out somewhat to the Breeders' Cup and Arc, so we decided to reinvent it. We hope, in the longer term, to provide a viable alternative for those who don't want to risk sending a horse all the way to the United States at the end of a long season."

PHIL COLE/ALLSPORT

Rebecca Sharp has the advantage of having won the Coronation Stakes over the Old Mile course at Ascot

GOODWOOD

THUNDERER

2.00 Royal Ground
2.30 High Tension
3.00 Priceless
3.30 Sandstone
4.00 Scissor Ridge
4.35 **MBULWA** (nap)
5.05 Snow Partridge
5.35 Ring The Chief

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 **MUTAWWAJ** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 GO HURDLING SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,386: 1m 1f) (13 runners)

101	(2)	1260563	ARM AND A LEG 15 (BF,F) (Mrs R Aggio) C Dwyer 8-11	W Ryan	74
102	(10)	040	ERIKA'S YOUNG MAN 39 (G Butterfield) M Haynes 8-11	M Connolly (7)	42
103	(8)	0000	FAR-SO-LA 33 (B) (Real Hill Partnership) T Jones 8-11	R Perham	-
104	(11)	0000	OPPORTUNE 11 (J Smith) D Elsworth 8-11	R Ffrench (3)	73
105	(9)	064020	PERSIAN VENTURE 15 (Mrs B Bell) B Meehan 8-11	K Darley	85
106	(5)		PRIDE OF FASHION (J Calms) S Knight 8-11	V Slattery	-
107	(4)	066	ROYAL GROUND 11 (Maygain Ltd) M Channon 8-11	G Hind	[illegible]
108	(3)	20602	CONSTANT ATTENTION 15 (C Wright) P Cole 8-6	T Quinn	83
109	(1)	00	FIVE FAIRIES 15 (Mrs T Foreman) N Callaghan 8-6	S Drowne	61
110	(7)	00401	FRANCESCA'S FOLLY 15 (F) (F Blenstock) J Hills 8-6	M Henry (3)	81
111	(12)	0506300	MUJA'S MAGIC 16 (Mrs V Hubbard) K Ivory 8-6	N Adams	69
112	(6)	003	SHALABELLA 49 (Mrs J Fisher & Mrs T White) M Channon 8-6	J Carroll	56
113	(13)	600	SIENA 15 (M Channon) M Channon 8-6	Candy Morris	47

BETTING: 9-4 Royal Ground, 7-2 Constant Attention, 4-1 Francesca's Folly, 11-2 Arm And A Leg, 7-1 Persian Venture, 12-1 Shalabella, 14-1 Erika's Young Man, Five Fairies, 16-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Persian Venture 15l 12th to Holy Wine in 7½f Lingfield nursery (good); previously neck 2nd of 10 to Marske Machine in 7f Sandown selling handicap (soft) with Arm And A Leg (8lb worse off) 3¼l 6th and Francesca's Folly (8lb worse off) 21l 9th. Royal Ground 8¾l 6th to Wales in 1m Goodwood maiden (good) with Opportune (levels) 24l 10th. Francesca's Folly beat Constant Attention (10lb better off) 2¼l in 1m Leicester selling handicap (good to firm) with Arm And A Leg (1lb better off) 4½l 3rd. Shalabella 2l 3rd to Slew Magic in 7f Brighton seller.

CONSTANT ATTENTION can reverse Leicester running with Francesca's Folly

2.30 ST IVEL GOLD CUP MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,720: 1m) (8 runners)

201	(7)	3	ACHILLES 72 (Achilles Freight Forwarders Ltd) R Akehurst 9-0	J Weaver	88
202	(3)	0	ALLGRIT 15 (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	M Rimmer	77
203	(8)		HIGH TENSION (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	-
204	(6)	63	LEAR SPEAR 14 (R Tooth) D Elsworth 9-0	S Drowne	98
205	(2)	323	MUTAWWAJ 12 (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-0	J Reid	100
206	(5)	0	RIGHT CROSS JONNY 32 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	R Havlin (3)	-
207	(4)	0	ST ENODOC 47 (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 9-0	T Sprake	56
208	(1)		SANTARENE (R Khan) P Howling 8-9	Paul Eddery	-

BETTING: 4-7 Mutawwaj, 5-1 High Tension, 8-1 Lear Spear, 10-1 Achilles, 16-1 Allgrit, St Enodoc, 33-1 Right Cross Jonny, Santarene.

1996: VOYAGERS QUEST 9-0 J Reid (11-8 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Achilles 2½l 3rd to Moontabeh in 6f Folkestone maiden (good to firm). High Tension Sadler's Wells colt out of a well-bred American mare. Lear Spear 6½l 3rd to Tamarisk in 7f Kempton maiden (good). Mutawwaj ½l 3rd to City Honours in 1m Doncaster maiden (good to firm). Right Cross Jonny 26l last of 8 to Alberich in 1m Beverley maiden (good to firm).

MUTAWWAJ has good opportunity to open account

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.00 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,802: 7f) (8 runners)

301	(8)	00	IMSHISHWAY 53 (A Hetaissi) B Meehan 8-10	K Darley	81
302	(1)	1	CENTRAL COMMITTEE 7 (D,F) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-8	J Reid	102
303	(6)	154	PRICELESS 12 (F) (Sun Punters Club) W Haggas 8-8	F Lynch	84
304	(3)	000	LAUREN'S LAD 19 (B) (Mrs L McCalla) G Lewis 8-4	Paul Eddery	-
305	(7)	0201	TITAN 12 (CD,G) (J & S Kelly) S Dow 8-4	T Quinn	103
306	(4)	U12	BETTRON 32 (D,F) (R Gander) R Hannon 8-1	R Ffrench (3)	[illegible]
307	(5)	541	CZAR WARS 30 (D,S) (Mrs J Martin) P Dalton 8-1	L Charnock	100
308	(2)	03	MADAME JONES 19 (E Jones (Paints) Ltd) B Meehan 7-13	J Quinn	84

BETTING: 6-4 Central Committee, 9-4 Priceless, 6-1 Bettron, 8-1 Titan, 10-1 Imshishway, 14-1 Czar Wars, 25-1 Madame Jones, 33-1 Lauren's Lad.

1996: WHITE HOT 8-9 R Hills (14-1) E Dunlop 15 ran

FORM FOCUS Imshishway 14l 7th to Teapot Row in 6f Newmarket maiden (good). Central Committee beat Long Bond 3l in 7½f Beverley maiden auction (good to firm). Priceless 13l 4th to Alboostan in 1m listed Goodwood stakes (good). Titan beat Jungle Story neck in 7f Goodwood nursery (good). Bettron 1l 2nd to Rabah in 7f Redcar stakes (firm). Czar Wars beat Universal Lady ¾l in 7f Warwick maiden auction (good to soft). Madame Jones 2¼l 3rd to Classy Cleo in 6f Haydock claimer (good to soft).

PRICELESS has less to do here. Titan best of the others

3.30 R O A FOUNDATION STAKES
(Listed race: £17,300: 1m 2f) (5 runners)

401	(1)	1011021	DANISH RHAPSODY 12 (CD,F,G) (C Hardy) Lady Herries 4-9-0	Paul Eddery	[illegible]
402	(4)	11-3654	PROPER BLUE 5 (D,F,G,S) (M Legge) T Mills 4-9-0	T Quinn	110
403	(5)	2520442	RUNNING STAG 6 (D) (R Cohen) P Mitchell 3-8-8	A Clark	110
404	(3)	0-31241	SANDSTONE 11 (D,F) (P Winfield) J Dunlop 3-8-8	T Sprake	114
405	(2)	2534401	LONELY HEART 33 (CD,F) (C Harper) D Elsworth 3-8-3	S Drowne	101

BETTING: 7-4 Sandstone, 5-2 Danish Rhapsody, 7-2 Running Stag, 11-2 Proper Blue, 10-1 Lonely Heart.

1996: HAGWAH 4-8-9 M Roberts (5-2) B Hanbury 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Danish Rhapsody beat King Of Tunes 1¼l in 1m 1f Goodwood handicap (good). Proper Blue 7¼l 4th to Clan Ben in 1¼m Newbury stakes (good to soft). Running Stag 5l 2nd to Majorien in 1m 3f listed Longchamp stakes (good). Sandstone beat Ramooz neck in 1m group II Veliefendi (Turkey) stakes (good to firm); previously 5½l 4th to Romanov in 1m 2½f group III Haydock stakes (good to firm). Lonely Heart beat Ricardo 5l in 1¼m Goodwood maiden stakes (good to firm).

SANDSTONE can continue winning ways at expense of Running Stag

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S bin Suroor	8	30	26.7	R Ffrench	4	22	18.2
E Dunlop	8	31	25.8	T Quinn	45	287	15.7
P Cole	29	139	20.9	J Reid	39	270	14.4
W Haggas	3	18	16.7	J Weaver	11	78	14.2
A Stewart	4	25	16.0	Dane O'Neill	14	113	12.4
Lady Herries	10	66	15.2	W Ryan	13	112	11.6
R Flower	3	20	15.0	M Henry	7	62	11.3
D Elsworth	11	77	14.3	K Darley	12	109	11.0

4.00 FRIALATOR INTERNATIONAL HANDICAP
(£4,175: 5f) (23 runners)

501	(4)	3056022	SONGSHEET 13 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Turner) M Saunders 4-10-0	P P Murphy (3)	71
502	(2)	2044010	TEAR WHITE 12 (CD,F) (A Lawson & Co Ltd) T Mills 3-10-0	J Quinn	72
503	(20)	0520046	BEAU VENTURE 2 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Stacey) B Palling 9-9-11	T Sprake	71
504	(14)	1115500	THE FUGATIVE 40 (D,G,S) (J Redmond) P Mitchell 4-9-10	J Reid	65
505	(3)	0000031	SWEET MAGIC 26 (D,F,G,S) (C Hammond) P Howling 6-9-9	K Darley	74
506	(19)	6364000	ANOKATO 8 (B,D,F) (K Ivory) K Ivory 3-9-8	C Cassidy (7)	70
507	(18)	0364400	TART AND A HALF 32 (D,F) (Pipersons) M Pitman 5-9-7	M Henry (3)	73
508	(7)	3342615	HALF TONE 26 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Mrs G Tennerman) R Flower 5-9-7	T Quinn	71
509	(11)	0035260	SCISSOR RIDGE 11 (CD,F) (D Smith) J Bridger 5-9-6	R Brisland (7)	72
510	(15)	5020564	FRIENDLY BRAVE 39 (C,D,F) (Tampus Fagit) G Kelleway 7-9-6	R Ffrench (3)	67
511	(10)	-060330	PRIDE OF HAYLING 18 (B,C,D,F) (B Broomfield) P Hedger 6-9-1	S Drowne	69
512	(16)	6-60510	ASHKERNAZY 51 (D,F) (London Bridge II) N Berry 6-8-6	N Adams	60
513	(21)	5663000	WINDRUSH BOY 7 (D,F,G) M R Bosley 7-8-6	Aimee Cook (5)	61
514	(8)	2164050	FLYING HAROLD 6 (F) (M Allen) M Channon 4-8-5	J Carroll	67
515	(9)	5000	CHURCHILL'S SHADOW 16 (R Gray) B Pearce 3-8-4	D R McCabe	54
516	(17)	0522500	DANCING MYSTERY 16 (B) (A Stroud & Co Ltd) E Wheeler 3-8-4	A Daly (5)	65
517	(22)	000/00/	WYCHWOOD SANDY 702 (R Coombes) H Collingridge 6-8-3	M Fenton	-
518	(6)	3000-00	IL DORIA 19 (D & R Platt) A Hide 4-8-3	A McGlone	-
519	(12)	0202355	BRIGHT PARAGON 6 (D,F,G,S) (D Cooper) K Ivory 8-8-1	Martin Dwyer	[illegible]
520	(5)	4060005	KALAR 16 (B,D,F,G) (J Chapman) D Chapman 8-7-12	L Charnock	57
521	(13)	0-50030	KABCAST 23 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Marshall) D Chapman 12-7-10	D Wright	67
522	(23)	00-0000	SMILING BESS 9 (E Mangan) J King 4-7-10	A Polli (5)	57
523	(1)	0000000	LUCY IN THE SKY 61 (Mrs A Forde) B Meehan 3-7-10	C Rutter	-

BETTING: 9-2 Sweet Magic, 13-2 Songsheet, 8-1 Beau Venture, Half Tone, Scissor Ridge, others.

1996: SCISSOR RIDGE 4-9-3 R Mullen (9-1) J Bridger 20 ran

FORM FOCUS Songsheet sh hd 2nd to General Sir Peter in 5f Chepstow handicap (good). Beau Venture 2½l 6th to Anselman in 5f Leicester handicap (good to firm). Sweet Magic beat Tinker Osmaston ½l in 5f Sandown handicap (good to soft). Scissor Ridge 1¼l 7th to Wildwood Flower in 6f handicap here (good to soft). Friendly Brave 1¼l 4th to The Frisky Farmer in 6f Brighton selling stakes (good to firm). Dancing Mystery 4½l 7th to First Principle 6f Bath maiden (good).

FRIENDLY BRAVE is preferred to Sweet Magic

4.35 WATSON AND PHILIP CLAIMING HANDICAP
(Div I: £4,143: 1m) (22 runners)

601	(22)	4-56086	NORMAN CONQUEST 11 (V) (R Scully) I Balding 3-9-10	K Darley	55
602	(9)	1500006	MR ROUGH 7 (V,CD,F) (D Morris) D Morris 6-9-9	S Drowne	-
603	(19)	0022402	MBULWA 7 (D,F,G,S) (Northumbria Leisure Ltd) R Fahey 11-9-7	L Charnock	64
604	(18)	164/500	LORD OBERON 8 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Mullally) J Akehurst 9-9-7	G Carter	45
605	(6)	004	SOUTH CHINA SEA 21 (C Wates) P Cole 3-9-6	T Quinn	88
606	(15)	-004531	BAPSFORD 46 (C Pennick) G L Moore 3-9-2	A Clark	63
607	(1)	5006302	OXBANE 6 (J Purcell) C Dwyer 3-9-1	R Ffrench (3)	64
608	(7)	0-00000	ONEKNIGHT WITH YOU 15 (D Clee) M Fetherston-Godley 3-9-1	J Reid	53
609	(5)	5600010	INVOCATION 27 (C,D,F) (R Kiernan) G L Moore 10-9-1	A Clark	[illegible]
610	(8)	0000313	COUNTRY THATCH 36 (BF,F) (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 4-9-1	Paul Eddery	55
611	(12)	0044030	MULTI FRANCHISE 32 (B,D,F) (Markirk Racing) R Flower 4-9-0	M Dwyer	56
612	(4)	4-10800	FORGET TO REMINDME 75 (F) J S Moore 3-9-0	P P Murphy (3)	50
613	(21)	5006003	DANCING LAWYER 13 (D,F,G) (Vintage Services Ltd) K Burke 6-9-0	Dane O'Neill	90
614	(13)	3500400	SOAKING 42 (D,F) (P Saunders) M Usher 7-8-13	D McCabe	44
615	(14)	6004266	WITHOUT FRIENDS 21 (C,F,G,S) J Ffitch-Heyes 3-8-12	J Weaver	34
616	(20)	0453-00	NATTIE 247 (B) (G Duckhaven Stud) C Hill 3-8-11	A Polli (5)	-
617	(17)	5000006	THREE WEEKS 16 (D) (D Wiltshire) W Muir 4-8-10	J Reid	32
618	(16)	000000-	GREAT BEAR 267 (D,F,G) (J Chapman) D Chapman 5-8-10	D Wright	-
619	(2)	0/00-00	MEMORY'S MUSIC 2263 (W Roker) M Madgwick 5-8-8	N Varley	-
620	(11)	60-0000	GABCHARGE BLUE 15 (D,F,S) (J Wise) T Naughton 5-8-5	T Sprake	57
621	(3)	0060200	LITTLE PILGRIM 53 (R Page) T Jones 4-8-5	A McGlone	55
622	(10)	0054221	HARLEQUIN WALK 15 (G) (Mrs R Doorgachurn) R O'Sullivan 6-8-4	J Quinn	60

BETTING: 11-2 Mbulwa, 13-2 Bapsford, Oxbane, 8-1 Country Thatch, Dancing Lawyer, 10-1 others.

1996: CRESTED KNIGHT 4-9-2 D Harrison (9-1) C Horgan 21 ran

FORM FOCUS Mbulwa sh hd 2nd to Euro Sceptic in 1m 100yd Beverley handicap (good to firm). Oxbane ¾l 2nd to Gay Breeze in 6f Yarmouth handicap (good to firm). Country Thatch 1¾l 3rd to Norsong in 1m 4f Folkestone handicap (good to firm). Harlequin Walk beat Magazine Gap sh hd in 1m 2f Lingfield selling handicap (equitrack).

MBULWA holds outstanding claims in a poor contest

5.05 MERBURY CATERING CONSULTANTS HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,818: 1m 4f) (9 runners)

1	(4)	4353012	PENNYS FROM HEAVEN 12 (D,G) (F Salman) H Candy 9-7	T Quinn	88
2	(6)	3-63523	SNOW PARTRIDGE 15 (B) (M Adub) P Cole 9-6	K Darley	[illegible]
3	(8)	3140100	SEATTLE SWING 13 (F,S) (Seattle Swingers) Mrs A Perrett 9-4	J Reid	79
4	(2)	0-0519	ROYAL CASTLE 25 (D,F) (Lord Weinstock) W Hern 9-2	T Sprake	75
5	(7)	0301200	OLIVO 8 (F) (J Hanson) C Horgan 8-12	Paul Eddery	67
6	(1)	0001	PRINCE ALEX 53 (D,G) (S Coronan Ltd) A Stewart 8-9	S Whitworth	84
7	(9)	0454	ACTION STATIONS 65 (V) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 8-1	Martin Dwyer	59
8	(3)	2030356	HERBSHAN DANCER 8 (Kingsroll Pins) B Millman 7-12	R Ffrench (3)	58
9	(5)	0-03	ZIBETH 123 (J Mills) S Dow 7-10	P Doe (7)	48

BETTING: 5-2 Prince Alex, 7-2 Pennys From Heaven, 6-1 Royal Castle, 7-1 Snow Partridge, 8-1 Herbshan Dancer, 10-1 Seattle Swing, Zibeth, 12-1 others.

1996: FASIL 9-7 R Hills (14-1) C Brittain 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Pennys From Heaven 6l 2nd to Aerleon Pete in 1m 4f Goodwood limited stakes (good). Seattle Swing 11l 13th to Kewarra in 1m 2f Chepstow handicap (good). Royal Castle on penultimate start beat Stakis Casinos Boy 1¼l in 1m 4f Pontefract handicap (good to firm). Prince Alex beat Keepsake neck in 1m 4f Newmarket handicap (good). Action Stations 21l 4th to Indigo Dawn in 1m 6f Southwell handicap (fibresand). Herbshan Dancer on penultimate start 8l 5th to Kinnescash in 1m 3f Windsor handicap (soft).

A moderate contest in which PRINCE ALEX must surely go well

5.35 WATSON AND PHILIP CLAIMING HANDICAP
(Div II: £4,143: 1m) (22 runners)

1	(11)	3004512	STEP ON DEGAS 12 (F) (Degas Pins) M F-Godley 4-9-10	R Ffrench (3)	66
2	(13)	40545-0	BELZAO 100 (G Piper) R Simpson 4-9-9	M Gallagher	53
3	(22)	2640680	MIMOSA 13 (D,F) (W Alexander) S Dow 4-9-7	W Ryan	56
4	(6)	0020500	SCATHEBURY 13 (D,F,S) (N Shields) K Burke 4-9-6	Dane O'Neill	58
5	(15)	14-0540	KING PARROT 28 (D,F) (Lord Huntingdon) Lord Huntingdon 9-9-3	C Cogan (7)	61
6	(3)	0001330	RAWI 27 (B,F) (C Wilkinson) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-1	J Carroll	70
7	(16)	1606/60	KARACHI 20J (F,G) (J Joseph) R O'Sullivan 7-9-1	G Hind	53
8	(10)	00260-0	MAC OATES 16 (D Larke) P Hedger 4-9-0	A McGlone	55
9	(20)	5555440	GRESATRE 8 (V) (E Kattenacker) C Dwyer 3-9-0	W Ryan	[illegible]
10	(12)	4225010	LA CHATELAINE 32 (F) (White Bear Ltd) G Lewis 3-8-13	Paul Eddery	52
11	(5)	000-050	DEEVEE 44 (D,F,G,S) (D Tomer) C Benstead 8-8-12	J Reid	45
12	(14)	6220000	FANCY DESIGN 32 (Mrs V Harris) P Mitchell 4-8-12	Aimee Cook (5)	66
13	(19)	00/10/0	SOUTHERN MEMORIES 46 (CD,F) W Musson 7-8-10	D McCabe	54
14	(4)	0506000	VELVET JONES 19 (Mrs J Charles-Jones) G Charles-Jones 4-8-10	S Whitworth	54
15	(21)	3500-50	RACING TELEGRAPH 7 (B,G) (C Wool) C Allen 7-8-10	Martin Dwyer	49
16	(17)	5004000	JUBILEE SCHOLAR 40 (M Johnston) G L Moore 4-8-8	J Quinn	49
17	(18)	6103154	RING THE CHIEF 8 (S) (G Summers) M Usher 5-8-7	G Hannon (7)	69
18	(7)	-536000	MEDIATE 51 (V,F) (A Hide) A Hide 5-8-6	A McGlone	45
19	(2)	3353000	PRIME PARTNER 40 (D,G) (P Bourke) T Easterby 4-8-5	L Charnock	55
20	(1)	6000080	GEORDIE LAD 16 (Miller Place Partnership) J Bennett 3-8-4	T Sprake	36
21	(9)	0000-00	TREVOR MITCHELL 19 (Miss J Sell) J Bridger 3-8-3	P Doe (7)	-
22	(8)	00-0050	PRINCE ZIZIM 61 (J Purcell) R Spicer 4-8-2	R Mullen (5)	45

BETTING: 4-1 Step On Degas, 6-1 King Parrot, Rawi, La Chatelaine, 10-1 Mimosa, Karachi, Fancy Design, Racing Telegraph, Ring The Chief, 14-1 others

1996: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS Step On Degas neck 2nd to Gold Lance in 1m Goodwood handicap (good). Mimosa 11l 7th to Rock Falcon in 1m Chepstow seller (good). Scathebury on penultimate start 4½l 7th to Victory Team in 6f Folkestone handicap (good). King Parrot on penultimate start 2l 4th to Safey Ana in 7f 140yd Lingfield handicap (good to firm). Gresatre on penultimate start 1l 4th to La Dolce Vita 7f Newmarket claimer (good). Racing Telegraph 4½l 7th to Lunch Party in a7f Yarmouth apprentice handicap (firm). Prime Partner 5¼l 7th to Clytha Hill Lad in 1m Haydock handicap (good).

STEP ON DEGAS is one of the few in-form runners and should give a good account

Blinkered first time

CHESTER: 3.20 Shannon's Secret, 3.20 Thanks Keith. 4.55 That Man Again. GOODWOOD: 2.00 Far-So-La. 3.00 Lauren's Lad. 4.00 Pride Of Hayling. 4.35 Nattie, Norman Conquest. 5.05 Action Stations, Snow Partridge. 5.35 Racing Telegraph.

CHESTER

THUNDERER

2.20 Aboo Hom. 2.50 Rewardia. 3.20 Balaclava. 3.50 Turnpole. 4.20 Mutamam. 4.55 Sharp Pearl.

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 **ALHOSAAM.**

GOING: GOOD — SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F 122YD, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 CARDEN MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,799: 1m 5f 89yd) (8 runners)

1	(4)	40	SINGLE MAN 70 B Baugh 4-9-7	A Culhane	—
2	(2)	065-	SPARTAN HEARTBEAT 419 C Brittain 4-9-7	W O'Connor	—
3	(3)	0500	TANIYAR 4 R Hollinshead 5-9-7	R Cochrane	—
4	(1)	5	SOSTENUTO 25 R Hollinshead 4-9-2	D Griffiths (3)	—
5	(5)	0540	ABOO HOM 61 A Stewart 3-8-12	M Roberts	69
6	(6)	2-64	MIDNIGHT WATCH 21 H Cecil 3-8-12	K Fallon	72
7	(8)	3240	SPY KNOLL 21 M Stoute 3-8-12	D Holland	59
8	(7)	2	AEOLINA 23 S Kettlewell 3-8-7	J Fortune	53

15-8 Midnight Watch, 9-4 Spy Knoll, 3-1 Spartan Heartbeat, 7-1 Aboo Hom, 14-1 Aeolina, 25-1 Taniyar, 33-1 Sostenuto, 50-1 Single Man

2.50 MARFORD MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,436: 7f 2yd) (9)

1	(4)	0	CHEROKEE BAND 15 B Hills 9-0	M Hills	58
2	(5)	3666	DA BOSS 13 W Muir 9-0	M Roberts	67
3	(8)		FREEDOM QUEST M Prescott 9-0	S Sanders	—
4	(1)	60	GENIUS 13 P Cole 9-0	M Tebbutt	55
5	(6)	66	PRINCE ASHLEIGH 49 P Haslam 9-0	J Fortune	58
6	(7)	0	PURE NOBILITY 15 B Hills 9-0	R Hills	35
7	(2)	65	THE MAGISTRATE 13 M Blanshard 9-0	R Cochrane	68
8	(3)	00	ELBA MAGIC 49 C Dwyer 8-9	K Fallon	51
9	(9)	5345	REWARDIA 26 P Evans 8-9	J F Egan	[illegible]

4-1 Cherokee Band, 5-1 Da Boss, 6-1 Freedom Quest, Rewardia, 7-1 Pure Nobility, The Magistrate, 8-1 Genius, Prince Ashleigh, 12-1 Elba Magic.

3.20 DEVA NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £4,397: 7f 2yd) (14)

1	(12)	0230	BALACLAVA 13 E Dunlop 9-7	K Fallon	[illegible]
2	(3)	3352	BOULEVARD ROUGE 27 M Johnston 9-7	D Holland	92
3	(8)	0054	KHATTAFF 13 W Hern 9-6	R Hills	83
4	(10)	2142	DEMOLITION JO 2 (V,D,F) P Evans 9-6	J F Egan	89
5	(4)	6032	POSITIVE AIR 9 B McMahon 9-4	M Roberts	91
6	(5)	0113	JUNIOR MUFFIN 8 (G) J Berry 9-3	C Lowther (5)	80
7	(13)	3640	ROBEENA 19 C Allen 9-1	R Cochrane	79
8	(6)	6143	INCHALONG 4 (D,G) M Britain 9-0	G Bardwell	92
9	(1)	0500	SHANNON'S SECRET 11 (B) B Meehan 8-12	M Tebbutt	75
10	(3)	4004	BURNT YATES 6 (BF) M W Easterby 8-11	S Sanders	89
11	(2)	350	MONTANO 15 P Cole 8-10	J Fortune	79
12	(11)	430	THANKS KEITH 117 (B) J J O'Neill 8-10	T Williams	76
13	(7)	3404	SING FOR ME 30 R Hollinshead 8-0	N Carlisle	87
14	(14)	504	AVIVA LADY 27 C Dwyer 7-10	J Fowle (7)	78

6-1 Khattafi, 7-1 Boulevard Rouge, Positive Air, 8-1 Balaclava, 10-1 others.

3.50 WEATHERBYS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HANDICAP
(£4,124: 1m 7f 195yd) (11)

1	(4)	5614	BEAUMONT 30 (CD,F,G,S) J Banks 7-9-13	R Cochrane	70
2	(2)	2120	TURNPOLE 14 (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-13	A Culhane	71
3	(11)	1311	CAMPASPE 7 (F,G) J FitzGerald 5-9-11 (5ex)	K Fallon	74
4	(3)	0451	FORGIE 21 (F,G,S) P Calver 4-9-9	N Day	74
5	(6)	0062	ETTERBY PARK 6 (D,F,S) M Johnston 4-9-9	D Holland	69
6	(8)	3641	GREAT ORATION 38 (CD,F) F Watson 8-9-6	J Fortune	64
7	(7)	1206	REX MUNDI 6 (CD,F) P Evans 5-9-5	J F Egan	63
8	(5)	0031	ALHOSAAM 14 (G) W Hern 3-9-5	R Hills	79
9	(10)	2612	TOP 25 (G) J Fanshawe 3-8-10	M Roberts	74
10	(1)	/04-	NEW INN 221J (F,G) S Gollings 6-8-1	T Williams	—
11	(9)	005-	DRAMA KING 298 B Llewellyn 5-7-10	J Bramhill	—

9-2 Forgie, 5-1 Alhosaam, 11-2 Campaspe, 6-1 Etterby Park, 13-2 Turnpole, 7-1 Beaumont, Top, 10-1 others.

4.20 HESWALL CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,788: 7f 122yd) (4)

1	(2)	011	CONFIRMATION 5 (S) M Prescott 9-5	S Sanders	106
2	(1)	414	GOLDEN DICE 14 (G) H Cecil 9-0	K Fallon	109
3	(3)	1	MUTAMAM 27 (D,S) A Stewart 9-0	R Hills	96
4	(4)	1043	KAWAFIL 16 (S) P Walwyn 8-9	R Cochrane	100

6-4 Mutamam, 11-4 Golden Dice, 7-2 Kawafil, 4-1 Confirmation

4.55 TARPORLEY HANDICAP
(£3,453: 5f 16yd) (13)

1	(9)	1460	LADY SHERIFF 6 (B,D,G) M Easterby 6-10-0	S Sanders	98
2	(10)	3210	SHARP PEARL 11 (B,D,F) P R Webber 4-9-13	J Fortune	85
3	(11)	0320	SQUIRE CORRIE 6 (D,F,S) D Chapman 5-9-12	A Culhane	86
4	(4)	2603	THAT MAN AGAIN 8 (V,D,F) S Williams 5-9-12	D Holland	73
5	(6)	0110	TOP OF THE FORM 35 (D,F) R Fahey 3-9-8	R Winston (7)	74
6	(12)	3060	SWINO 6 (D,F) P Evans 3-9-1	J F Egan	71
7	(1)	4300	CAUTION 26 (C,F) S Gollings 3-8-12	K Fallon	68
8	(5)	1301	PALACEGATE JACK 16 (B,D,F,G,S) J Berry 6-8-11	T E Durcan (3)	75
9	(3)	0030	SWAN AT WHALLEY 12 (CD,G,S) R Fahey 5-8-6	R Cochrane	85
10	(2)	6004	GI LA HIGH 9 (D) M Meade 4-8-5	F Norton	74
11	(13)	6030	PRINCELY SOUND 12 (C,D,G) J Banks 4-8-4	D Sweeney (3)	85
12	(7)	3000	U-NO-HARRY 26 (CD,F) R Hollinshead 4-7-13	N Carlisle	78
13	(8)	4000	POLLY GOLIGHTLY 12 (B,D,F) M Blanshard 4-7-12	Dale Gibson	87

9-2 That Man Again, 6-1 Palacegate Jack, 7-1 Sharp Pearl, 8-1 Lady Sheriff, Gi La High, 10-1 Top Of The Form, Caution, Swan At Whalley, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CHESTER: Trainers: H Cecil, 11 winners from 38 runners, 28.9%. Mrs M Reveley, 4 from 19, 21.1%. M Stoute, 16 from 77, 20.8%. B McMahon, 10 from 61, 16.4%. P Cole, 8 from 51, 15.7%. B Hills, 12 from 80, 15.0%. Jockeys: G Bardwell, 5 winners from 21 rides, 23.8%. A Culhane, 6 from 27, 22.2%. M Roberts, 10 from 53, 18.9%. J Fortune, 11 from 72, 15.3%; K Fallon, 16 from 109, 14.7%.

PERTH: Trainers: Mrs M Reveley, 24 winners from 61 runners, 39.3%. J Goldie, 15 from 54, 27.8%; G Richards, 23 from 100, 23.0%; P Monteith, 18 from 87, 20.7%; M Barnes, 6 from 43, 14.0%. Only qualifiers. Jockeys: R Johnson, 4 winners from 5 rides, 80.0%. P Niven, 27 from 87, 31.0%, A Dobbin, 19 from 87, 21.8%; R Guest, 6 from 30, 20.0%; F Leahy, 4 from 21, 19.0%; T Reed, 8 from 53, 15.1%.

RACELINE
0930 168+
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[illegible]

Shmoose stepped up in class

SHMOOSE, the hugely impressive winner of a maiden race at Newbury, is likely to be supplemented today for the Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket next Tuesday (Our Newmarket Correspondent writes).

Godolphin, which owns the Caerleon filly, is to pay £12,000 at this late entry stage. Simon Crisford, the operation's racing manager, said yesterday: "The final decision as to whether Shmoose is supplemented will be made this morning, but is is highly likely. We think she can make the big step from a maiden to a group one."

PERTH

THUNDERER

2.10 Trilby. 2.40 Pentlands Flyer. 3.10 Eden Dancer. 3.40 Vintage Taittinger. 4.10 Johns The Boy. 4.45 Terdad.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

2.10 BALLATHIE HOUSE HOTEL NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,608: 3m 110yd) (5 runners)

1	06-2	FOUR FROM HOME 26 J J O'Neill 5-10-10	A Roche
2	065-	WOODHOUSE LANE 119 N Chamberlain 5-10-10	B Storey
3	044-	MY MAVOURNEEN 160 Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-5	Mr M Bradburne (7)
4	203-	ANIKA'S GEM 133 Mrs S Bradburne 4-10-2	M Foster
5		TRILBY 9F G Richards 4-10-2	A Dobbin

8-11 Trilby, 4-1 Four From Home, 5-1 My Mavourneen, 8-1 Anika's Gem, 16-1 Woodhouse Lane.

2.40 GLENGOYNE NOVICES CHASE
(£3,566: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

1	14-1	LINLATHEN 111 (C,D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-2	P Niven
2	05-3	JAUNTY GENERAL 8 C Parker 6-10-10	R Supple
3	3F5-	JONAEM 123 (D,F) Mrs E Slack 7-10-10	K Johnson
4	55R-	KINGS MINSTRAL 123 (D,G) D Lamb 7-10-10	J Burke
5	/04-	MAYBE O'GRADY 295 (F,G,S) W Cunningham 8-10-10	N Smith
6	400-	MUSIC BLITZ 177 Mrs D Thomson 6-10-10	T Reed
7	312-	PENTLANDS FLYER 132 (D,G) H Johnson 6-10-10	A Maguire
8	5PP-	SUPER GUY 144 J Barclay 5-10-8	A Thornton
9	6-35	MONKEY WENCH 26 (BF,D,F) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-10-5	B Storey
10	/545	ON GOLDEN POND 19 (F,G) N Mason 7-10-5	R Guest

5-4 Linlathen, 2-1 Pentlands Flyer, 10-1 Jaunty General, 14-1 Maybe O'Grady, On Golden Pond, 16-1 Monkey Wench, 20-1 Music Blitz, 25-1 others.

3.10 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,284: 2m 110yd) (5)

1	32-1	EDEN DANCER 27 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-8	P Niven
2	030-	EUROTWIST 168F (D,G,S) G A Harker 8-11-2	F Leahy (3)
3	1PP-	PATEY COURT 142P (G) J Howard Johnson 6-10-8	A Maguire
4	35/0	XAIPETE 77 (F) N Mason 5-10-7	R Guest
5	C0-	TOPUP 147 M Barnes 4-10-5	A Thornton

4-6 Eden Dancer, 9-4 Eurotwist, 8-1 Patey Court, 14-1 Xaipete, 50-1 Topup.

3.40 LOTHIAN PLUMBING AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,801: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1	034-	MITHRAIC 193 (C,F) W Cunningham 5-12-0	S Durack (7)
2	65P-	CHEATER 153 (B,F) J Howard Johnson 6-11-4	C Bonner (3)
3	1121	VINTAGE TAITTINGER 25 (CD,F) J Goldie 5-10-11	O McPhail (7)
4	65-3	NORDISK LEGEND 110 D Thomson 5-10-0	Miss P Robson (5)
5	3P54	BITACRACK 23 (D,F,S) J Birkett 10-10-0	J Goldstein (7)

11-8 Vintage Taittinger, 11-4 Cheater, 100-30 Mithraic, 11-2 others.

4.10 B O S HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,143: 3m) (5)

1	/FU2	JOHNS THE BOY 35 (D,G,S) N Mason 11-11-13	R Guest
2	31-2	NIJWAY 19 (D,F,G,S) M Barnes 7-11-11	A Thornton
3	24P1	RUSTY BLADE 26 (B,CD,F,G) P Monteith 8-11-4	R Johnson
4	U644	WALLS COURT 26 (B,F,G) J Birkett 10-10-9	M Moloney
5	0-P5	MR SLOAN 8 J Goldie 7-10-0	Mr O McPhail (7)

6-4 Rusty Blade, 7-2 Johns The Boy, Nijway, Walls Court, 20-1 Mr Sloan.

4.45 FESTIVAL NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,634: 2m) (7)

1	1	TERDAD 27 (F) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-1	P Niven
2	0-P6	CAULKER 19 M Barnes 4-10-8	A Thornton
3		LORD CORNELIOUS 65F D Nolan 4-10-8	—
4		SANDABAR 96F H Johnson 4-10-8	A Maguire
5	PP0/	FINER FEELINGS 544 Mrs D Thomson 5-10-5	L O'Hara
6	3	MYSTIC TIMES 27 B Mactaggart 4-10-3	B Storey
7	PUP-	SOUNDS DEVIOUS 224 A Whillans 4-10-3	A Dobbin

2-5 Terdad, 9-2 Mystic Times, 5-1 Sandabar, 33-1 Caulker, 50-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Nottingham

Going: good to firm

2.15 (1m 54yd) 1, Rambling Rose (J Reid, 9-2); 2, Tuning (K Fallon, 3-1); 3, Night Rule (11-1). Shimaal 6-4 fav. 14 ran. ¾l, 6l. M Stoute. Tote: £5.60; £1.30; £1.70; £6.00. DF: £8.60. CSF: £18.75. Trio: £76.90.

2.45 (1m 54yd) 1, Northern Blessing (J Reid, 9-1); 2, Burning Truth (4-9 fav); 3, Waterwave (7-2). 8 ran. NR: Jaza. On Merit. 5l, 2½l. P Harris. Tote: £9.60; £1.50, £1.10, £1.10. DF: £4.00. Trio: £5.20. CSF: £13.03.

3.15 (6f 15yd) 1, Ikhteyaar (R Hills, 8-13 fav); 2, Final Tango (10-1); 3, Wigging (16-1). 18 ran. 3½l, 1¾l. R Armstrong. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £3.40, £4.70. DF: £18.40. Trio: £92.60. CSF: £7.76.

3.45 (6f 15yd) 1, Middle East (J Carroll, 9-1); 2, Maladena (9-2 fav); 3, Superbit (12-1). 19 ran. NR: La Volta. 1l, 1½l. T Barron. Tote: £13.90; £3.70, £2.80, £4.80. DF: £30.60. Trio: £580.80. CSF: £51.16.

4.15 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, Tarashaan (S Sanders, 7-2 fav); 2, Iron Mountain (13-2); 3, Narrogin (12-1); 4, Red Maple (16-1). 18 ran. ½l, 1¾l. M Prescott. Tote: £4.60; £1.50, £2.30, £6.10, £4.20. DF: £15.10. Trio: £159.80. CSF: £30.54. Tricast: £266.25.

4.45 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, Civil Liberty (Mr A Balding, 11-1); 2, Riccarton (9-1); 3, Augustan (6-1); 4, Tajar (9-1). Fem's Governor 3-1 fav. 18 ran. ½l, 2l. G Lewis. Tote: £13.60; £2.60, £1.70, £2.30, £3.20. DF: £44.60. Trio: £66.00. CSF: £107.28. Tricast: £630.73.

5.15 (2m 9yd) 1, Stoned Imaculate (K Fallon, 6-4 fav); 2, Sipowitz (12-1); 3, Arisaig (12-1); 4, Alagna (16-1). 18 ran. 1¼l, 8l. F Murphy. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £5.30, £2.60, £5.80. DF: £14.90. Trio: £150.40. CSF: £23.91. Tricast: £190.30.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £12,649.70 carried forward to Goodwood today).
Placepot: £143.50. Quadpot: £55.00.

Plumpton

Going: good to firm

2.35 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Galloping Guns (Michael Brennan, 4-1); 2, Sprig Muslin (7-1); 3, The Executor (9-4 fav). 10 ran. 3l, 2l. B Llewellyn. Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £1.70, £1.40. DF: £10.00. Trio: £12.20. CSF: £29.46. Tricast: £70.59.

3.05 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Mystik Day (C Maude, 1-4 fav); 2, Ile De Librate (10-1); 3, Aquavita (25-1). 5 ran. 4l, 9l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.20; £1.10, £2.40. DF: £2.60. CSF: £3.62.

3.35 (2m 5f ch) 1, Ruth's Boy (R Johnson, 4-1); 2, Mozemo (8-4 fav); 3, The Shy Padre (5-1). 6 ran. NR: John Roger. 16l, dist. Miss A Embiricos. Tote: £6.20; £2.10, £1.10. DF: £8.70. CSF: £8.99.

4.05 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Fabulon (C Maude, 11-4); 2, Zeliba (11-8 fav); 3, Weather Wise (15-8). 5 ran. 1l, 16l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.00; £1.20, £1.20. DF: £2.90. CSF: £6.40.

4.35 (2m ch) 1, Victory Anthem (B Fenton, 12-1); 2, Pair Of Jacks (7-2); 3, Dawn Chance (9-2). Gebish 2-1 fav. 7 ran. 6l, 7l. P Clarke. Tote: £13.00; £3.80, £2.30. DF: £34.10. CSF: £45.53.

5.05 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Canton Venture (P Hide, 6-4 fav); 2, Skram (7-2); 3, Sorbiere (12-1). 7 ran. 6l, 3l. S Woods. Tote: £2.50; £1.60, £3.10. DF: £4.20. CSF: £6.99.
Placepot: £9.40. Quadpot: £7.00.

Stratford

Going: good to firm

2.25 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Almapa (T Descombe, 6-1); 2, Auburn Boy (evens fav); 3, Highest Roots (20-1). 6 ran. 5l, 2l. R Hodges. Tote: £6.70; £2.80; £1.50. DF: £8.20. CSF: £12.02.

2.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Fataliste (A P McCoy, 8-15 fav); 2, Dunston Bill (66-1); 3, Iechyd-Da (5-2). 6 ran. 11l, 22l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.50; £1.40, £4.40. DF: £28.00. CSF: £35.97.

3.25 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Jazzy Refrain (A Maguire, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Dubelle (2-1 jt-fav); 3, Yubralee (2-1 jt-fav). 4 ran. 1¾l, 22l. L Wells. Tote: £2.90. DF: £1.80. CSF: £5.72.

3.55 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Major's Law (A Maguire, 5-1); 2, Sheriff (11-2); 3, Chicago's Best (25-1). Shahrani 10-11 fav. 5 ran. 5l, 1¾l. R Simpson. Tote: £6.70; £2.60, £1.80. DF: £13.80. CSF: £26.74.

4.25 (3m ch) 1, Gaelstaeor Jane (T J Murphy, 8-11 fav); 2, Commanche Creek (2-1); 3, Little Tincture (25-1). 5 ran. 10l, 2l. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.90. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.46.

4.55 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Scarlet Rambler (J Culloty, 7-1); 2, Johnny-K (8-13 fav); 3, Welsh Spinner (12-1). 7 ran. 8l, 5l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £10.80; £3.30, £1.30. DF: £3.00. CSF: £10.53.
Placepot: £59.50. Quadpot: £14.90.

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

British Midland flight offer

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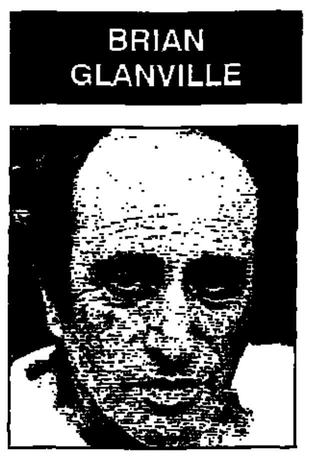
FOOTBALL

Robson waiting in wings as Benfica search for saviour

BRIAN GLANVILLE



Overseas Football

WILL Bobby Robson get a new job in Portugal? Will Graeme Souness keep his in Turin? Benfica, of Lisbon, once the pride of Portuguese football, lost yet again on Sunday, 3-1 away to modest Rio Ave, and enough was enough. Manuel José, the manager appointed last season, was promptly dismissed and his assistant, Mario Wilson, temporarily promoted.

Robson, moved upstairs by Barcelona to make way for the Dutchman, Louis van Gaal, was reported to be happy to go back to Portugal to manage his third club there, after largely successful spells at Sporting Lisbon and Porto. Robson, however, said that he had not yet been approached by Benfica. Barcelona would doubtless be happy not to have to pay him to the end of his lucrative contract.

For Souness, the roof fell in again when his expensively-assembled Torino team crashed 3-0 in their *Serie B* match at Pescara. Their recent, gallant 2-1 conquest of Sampdoria in the first leg of an Italian Cup tie seemed to indicate that things were looking up, but now the birds of ill omen are hovering again.

Switching from four in line to a sweeper defence, Torino seemed to have got things right at the back, while Gigi Lentini, back after years with AC Milan and Atalanta, was striking form. Until Pescara. There are rumours that Carlo Mazzone, the veteran former manager of Roma and Cagliari, will take over if Torino fail to beat Genoa on Sunday.

Internazionale lead the Italian championship, having won all three of their games, although the first, at home to promoted Brescia, was desperately close. Two remarkable left-foot goals by "China" Recoba, of Uruguay, saved the day.

Victory at Bologna was followed on Sunday by an edgy *3-2 home win over Fiorentina.* Gigi Simoni, Roy Hodgson's successor as Inter's manager, who nearly lost his job before the season started, was frank about the win. "We lacked speed," he said, "and we made *so many bad mistakes in* defence. If we play like this in future, we can't possibly expect to win very often. Today, Fiorentina played better than us and lost."

Fiorentina's first goal was scored by Gabriel Batistuta, who has half a dozen from the first three games. How long can Daniel Passarella, the Argentina manager, keep him out of the team? True, they have qualified for the World Cup finals, but laboriously. Passarella says he will use Batistuta in France, but it was perverse to ignore him in the first place.

While Inter march on, Milan, their local rivals, are adrift. Patrick Kluivert, the controversial Holland striker, put them ahead away to Udinese after only six min*utes, but Oliver Bierhoff, the* powerful Germany centre forward, struck back twice, the winner resulting from a feeble back-pass by Bogarde, the Holland full back. Inter's winner against Fiorentina had similar origins.

Silvio Berlusconi, Milan's owner, announced that his team *had too many foreigners* (well, who agreed to buy them?) and should use more Italians. Fabio Capello, the manager, has rejoined them after winning the Spanish championship with Real Madrid, using seven foreigners at a time.

One Italian that Milan seem unlikely to be permitted to buy back is the defender, Christian Panucci, *who was signed for* Real by Capello. The Spanish club, annoyed by Milan's persistence, have now offered Panucci a fabulous new four-year contract.

Brazil have won the under-*17 world championship, beat*ing Ghana 2-1 in the final in Cairo. The Ghanaians were accused of fielding several players who had figured in the tournament years ago.

African junior teams are often under such suspicion, partly because in sub-Sahara Africa, birth records can be sketchy, partly because there have been past instances of abuse.

In Rio de Janeiro, Fluminense's disgusted supporters literally turned their backs on the team as they lost 3-0 to Recife.

Edmundo, alias "The Ani*mal", scored all six goals for* Vasco da Gama against União São João, the first after 27 seconds. Edmundo, who is due to join Fiorentina in December, faces charges over the deaths of three people in a car accident, is being pursued for maintenance for a son he denies is his, and also has the tax authorities on his trail. He may be pleased to get to Florence.

Ravanelli seeks deal

FABRIZIO RAVANELLI has returned to Italy after holding talks over his future with Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman.

Middlesbrough are prepared to cut their £7.5 million valuation and believe that the unsettled striker will have to slash his personal demands to complete a deal.

Sheffield Wednesday were told by a transfer tribunal yesterday to pay Southampton £1.6 million for Jim Magilton. Wednesday had offered £600,000 for the 28-year-old Northern Ireland midfield player.

Rangers have opened talks aimed at bringing Richard Gough, the former Scotland captain now with Kansas City Wizards, back to Ibrox.

McManaman believes that the two great goals he has scored recently will still fail to win over his critics

McManaman takes shot at critics

By Our Sports Staff

TWO important matches graced by two magnificent *goals, scored by one enigmatic* player. Steve McManaman, the Liverpool forward, produced two moments of footballing magic to conjure two weaving runs at high speed, starting from inside his own half, first against Celtic, in the Uefa Cup, and again, a week later, in the defeat of Aston Villa in the FA Carling Premiership.

Not bad for a player often criticised for being a poor finisher but, despite those two marvellous goals, McManaman believes that he will always be saddled with the unfortunate tag.

"Even if I scored 20 goals, if *I then missed a couple of easy* ones, people would still say I was terrible at finishing," he said. "The Villa goal was just a case of getting into the box and having a shot. The goal in Glasgow brought relief, because we hadn't played too well."

Even his own manager, Roy Evans, gives credence to the theory that McManaman wastes too many chances. "Macca was excellent. Much of his work goes unnoticed," Evans said, "but he can be careless with his final ball. But Macca will always score and, if he keeps going in this mood, there will be a lot *more.*

"The only way he can answer Glenn Hoddle, who picks the England team, is to do well for his club, and with two great goals like he's got recently, he's certainly doing that."

McManaman's scoring form is a welcome bonus for Liverpool. Despite missing several key players, they still managed a convincing 3-0 victory against Aston Villa on Monday night, thanks largely to a forward line that would be the envy of many Premiership managers. Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler and Karlheinz Riedle proved just too hot to handle for Villa and provided a stark contrast to the man who moved from Anfield to Villa Park in May.

Stan Collymore has scored just one goal in nine games since his £7 million transfer and now the Villa hierarchy are keen to see some sort of return on their investment.

The match on Monday saw him return to Anfield for the first time to face his former club and he barely got a look-in, and was booed every time that he touched the ball.

Allan Evans, the Villa coach, said: "He has to start working to improve his part*nership with Dwight Yorke.* It's not good enough. Stan is an emotional person, but now we want him to knuckle down and work for Aston Villa. If he was worried about the prospect of returning *to Liverpool,* I'm glad it's over now, I expect him to start working really hard for us. He's a quality player and we all believe that his qualities will come through in time."

Skinner has two goals in his sights

FOR Justin Skinner, scoring the winning goal for Walsall against Nottingham Forest tonight could mean more to him than just Coca-Cola Cup glory. It could also help to secure him a long-term future with the Nationwide League second division club.

Skinner scored the only goal of the first leg of this second-round tie at the City Ground last week. The midfield player is on loan from Bristol Rovers and feels that his future lies away from the West Country club. "I don't see a future with Bristol Rovers and they have said that if someone else comes in for me, then I can go," he said. Forest will be without Jan Ola Hjelde, the Norwegian defender, who is injured.

Wolverhampton Wanderers are confident that they can avoid becoming the victims of a giant-killing act against Fulham at Molineux by increasing the 1-0 lead they earned in the first leg. Stoke City have even less to worry about against troubled Burnley, who travel to the Britannia Stadium already 4-0 down.

HOCKEY

Power of Australia sends out a warning

By Sydney Friskin

AUSTRALIA took a step nearer a place in the Junior World Cup semi-finals by taking over the leadership of pool A with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Holland at Milton Keynes yesterday.

The powerful Australians dominated the match with lightning raids on both flanks, launched by Bolton and Elder.

Holland attempted to counter this by building up steadily in midfield, but, invariably, these moves foundered, as did their attempts to convert short corners, so often a potent factor in their make-up.

Australia took the lead in the fifteenth minute with a goal by Webster who rounded off a combined assault with a brilliant scoop into the net.

Four minutes before the interval, Wess increased their lead by converting a short corner with a strong hit along the ground.

Holland hinted at a revival at the start of the second half, *but their plight worsened in* the 51st minute when Choppy delivered the ball to Taylor, the unmarked outside left, who drove it into an empty goal.

Australia tightened their grip on the match three minutes later when Bolton scored from Choppy's back-pass, leaving Holland with little chance of saving the match. Five short corners came their way in the last few minutes, but all to no avail.

Spain remained in contention for a place in the semi-finals with a 4-2 victory over Belgium, but not before the Belgians had given them a scare by equalising at 2-2 ten minutes before the end. The Spaniards, however, scored twice in the last five minutes, the second goal coming from a penalty stroke.

The teams had met early this month at Terrassa, with *Spain winning 3-1 and 6-4, but* Belgium's form showed a marked improvement yesterday.

Spain's fate will be decided when they play Australia today.

RESULTS: Pool A: India 8 Cuba 0. **Pool B:** Egypt 2 Japan 4; Pakistan 6 Germany 2, England 2 Argentina 5

POSITIONS: Pool A: 1, *India 7pts*; 2, Australia 7; 3, Spain 6; 4, Holland 4, 5, Belgium 4; 6, Cuba 0. **Pool B:** 1, Germany 9pts; 2, Pakistan 8, 3, England 6, 4, Argentina 5; 5, Japan 3, 6, Egypt 2

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

There was good judgement all round on this hand from the match in which Deutsch beat Nickell to determine the number one USA team for the upcoming Bermuda Bowl.

Dealer South Love all IMPs

♠ –
♥ Q J 10 8 5
♦ Q 10 9 7 4
♣ Q 5 2

♠ A 10 7
♥ 9 3
♦ K 6 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 4

N
W E
S

♠ K Q 8 6 4 3 2
♥ 7
♦ 5
♣ A K 6 3

♠ J 9 5
♥ A K 6 4 2
♦ A J 8
♣ J 7

	S	W	N	E
Room 1	Rosenberg	Meckstroth	Deutsch	Rodwell
Room 2	Nickell	Martel	Freeman	Stansby
	1 H	Pass	4 H	4 S
	Pass	Pass	5 H	All Pass

Contract: Five Hearts by South. Lead: ace of spades.

South's One Heart, North's Four Hearts and East's Four Spades were all routine actions. South had no reason to expect Four Spades to be going down, but nor did he have a particularly good hand in attack, so he correctly passed.

When Four Spades went back to North he could see that, as South had not doubled, the defensive prospects were poor – so he pressed on to Five Hearts. If East's hand had been slightly stronger (say his spades were headed by KQJ10), he might have considered going on to Five Spades. But the correct bid on that hand would be Double – the tournament style is to use the bid to say 'partner I want to go on in my suit, but if you are unsuitable you can pass'.

Finally, when Five Hearts went back to West he considered his hand too unpromising to try Five Spades, and so passed. A well-judged hand all round: Four Hearts and Four Spades make, Five Hearts and Five Spades go one down.

Advocates of the 'Law of Total Tricks' would find their method working well on this hand. Each side has a ten-card fit, so there should be twenty tricks available, and that's how it works out. Each side can make ten tricks playing in their own suit.

☐ *The Times* Book of Bridge 1, a compendium of some of these columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 p&p).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HANDSEL
a. To barter
b. To give a present
c. A folkloric boy

JINN
a. A potent spirit
b. A carpenter's joint
c. An Afghan tribe

HICKSITE
a. A travellers' campsite
b. Made of shoddy wood
c. A deviant Quaker

HASARD
a. Grey-haired
b. A reversed escutcheon
c. A type of vulture

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Kasparov's record

There can have been few occasions in the history of chess when a former candidate for the World Championship has taken part on the receiving end of a simultaneous display. Nevertheless, this occurred in Kasparov's record breaking exhibition against the full Argentine national team in Buenos Aires. Amongst Kasparov's opponents was grandmaster Oscar Panno who, in 1956, participated in the World Championship Candidates tournament in Amsterdam.

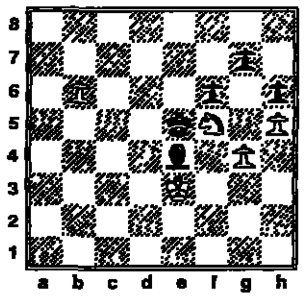
After a complicated opening Kasparov initiated a trade of queens. In spite of having sacrificed a pawn early on Kasparov exerted great pressure in the centre and by utilising a far advanced passed pawn broke through to achieve a winning endgame.

White: Kasparov
Black: Panno
Buenos Aires, September 1997

Nimzo-Indian Defence

	White	Black
1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Qc2	0-0
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	Qxc3	b6
7	Bg5	c5
8	e3	d6
9	dxc5	bxc5
10	0-0-0	Ne4
11	Qd3	Nxf2
12	Bxd8	Nxd3+
13	Bxd3	Rxd8
14	Be4	d5
15	cxd5	Bb7
16	Ne2	Nd7
17	dxe6	Bxe4
18	e7	Re8
19	Rxd7	f6
20	Ng3	Bg6
21	h4	h6
22	h5	Bh7
23	Rh4	Kf7
24	Rc4	Rxe7
25	Rxe7+	Kxe7
26	Rxc5	Kd6
27	b4	Re8
28	Kd2	Re5
29	Rxe5	Kxe5
30	a4	Bg8
31	b5	Bb3
32	a5	Bc4
33	b6	axb6
34	axb6	Bd5
35	e4	Bb7
36	Ke3	Bc6
37	Nf5	Bxe4
38	g4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Times book

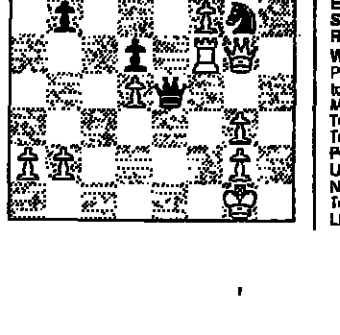
The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Sirtlanov - Teske, Poland 1997.
White is a piece down and thus needs a dramatic continuation. What did he play?



Solution on page 50

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Jacksonville 29 Pittsburgh 21

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 4 Detroit 5, New York Yankees 8 Toronto 1, Minnesota 5 Milwaukee 2; Oakland 2 Seattle 4 **Postponed:** Kansas City v Cleveland

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 3 New York Mets 10, Pittsburgh 3 St Louis 1, Atlanta 3 Montreal 2 (11 inns), San Diego 5 San Francisco 11; Cincinnati 3 Houston 6

BOXING

GLASGOW: British super-featherweight championship (12 rnds) C Shepherd (Carlisle) bt D McHale (Glasgow) rsc 10th. **Light-middle** (8 rnds) J Docherty (Edinburgh) bt D Quacoe (Crawley) rtd 8th **Light-welter** (8 rnds) M Breslin (Barrhead) bt S Tuckett (Wakefield) pts. **Super-feather** (6 rnds): J T Kelly (Hartlepool) bt G Burrell (Kirkcaldy) pts

BOWLS

WORTHING PAVILION: Financial Options Home Counties Association championships: Singles: Semi-finals: M Hitchcox (Oxfordshire) bt J Stradling (Berkshire) 21-16, J Stevens (Surrey) bt R Moses (Sussex) 21-13 **Final:** Stevens bt Hitchcox 21-15 **Pairs: Semi-finals:** G Nicholls and L Dickson (Surrey) bt M Edney and J Stradling (Berkshire) 27-18; H Watts and G Harrington (Oxfordshire) w/o M Bantockk and K Smith (Buckinghamshire) scr. **Final:** Oxfordshire bt Surrey 25-12. **Triples: Semi-finals:** *Buckinghamshire (W Geer) bt Oxfordshire* (G Lucas) 24-19, Middlesex (R Kirk) bt Sussex (J Jeffers) 28-9 **Final:** Buckingham*shire bt Middlesex 24-17* **Fours: Semi-finals:** Oxfordshire (G Moon) bt Berkshire (P Swann) 25-16; Surrey (M Overington) bt Kent (R Howell) 28-17 **Final:** Surrey bt Oxfordshire 22-14

INTERNATIONAL OPEN: First-round draw: H Duff (Scot) v J Henry (Ire), I Taylor (Aus) v N Booth (Ire), M McMahon (Aus) v N Williams (Wales), I Schubach (Aus) v L Gillett (Eng): A Allcock (Eng) v A Welch (Guer), J Price (Wales) v J Lindores (Scot), G Harlow (Eng) v N Burkett (SA) R Corsie (Scot) v R Marshall (Scot); M King (Eng) v S Hazell (Eng), G A Smith (Eng) v S Glasson (Aus); R Brassey (NZ) v G Snoddon (Scot), D Gourlay (Scot) v N Shaw (Eng); W Richards (Eng) v R Weale (Wales); S Rees (Wales) v B Mellors (Scot), G Robertson (Scot) v R Newman (Eng), A E Thomson (Eng) v M Johnston (Ire)

CRICKET

WOMEN'S MATCH: Ashford, Kent (one day): England 215-5; England Under-21 *161-9* (C Edwards 71, M Raynard 3-16) England won by 54 runs

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Sixteenth stage (Cangas de Onis to Santander, 170km) 1, J Svorada (Cz, Mapei) 3hr 54min 7sec, 2, M Wust (Ger, Lotus); 3, A di Basco (It, Saeco), 4, L Michaelsen (Den, TVM), 5, A Vorhouten (Holl, Rabobank), 6, S Colage (It Refin) all same time. **Leading overall positions:** 1, A Zülle (Switz, ONCE) 65hr 52min 2sec 2, F Escartin (Sp, Kelme) at 2min 46sec, 3, L Dufaux (Switz, Lotus) 3:39, 4, Zaina (It, Asics) 5 07; 5, R Heras (Sp, Kelme) 6:17, 6, M Serrano (Sp, Kelme) 7 10.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group six: Malta 0 Czech Republic 5 (in Valletta)

WELSH CUP: Second round draw: Presteigne St Andrews v Caersws; Newtown v Rhyl, Ruthin Town v Cemaes Ynys *Mon; Guilsfield v Holywell Town; Rhayader* Town v TNS: Brymbo Broughton v Flint Town United, Connah's Quay Nomads v Porthmadog; Mold Alex or Llandyrnog United v Llangefni Town; Cefn Druids v Nantlle Vale: Knighton Town v Oswestry Town, Welshpool Town v Bangor City. Llandrindod Wells v Holyhead Hotspur; Buckley Town v Lex XI. Caernarfon Town v Chirk AAA, Treharris Athletic v Ferndale Athletic, Treowen Stars v Ammanford Town. *Afan Lido v Ton Pentre, Goytre United v* Chepstow Town or Penrhiwceiber Rangers. Pontardawe Athletic v Hoover Sports: Llanwern v Skewen Athletic Carmarthen Town v Aberaman Athletic or Porth Tywyn Suburbs; BP Llandarcy v Haverfordwest Co: Porthcawl Town v Bridgend Town, Ely Rangers v Blaenrhondda or Pontypridd Town; Fields Park P v AFC Rhondda or Briton Ferry Athletic Garw or UWIC v Grange Harlequins

☐ Ties to be played on October 18.

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Liverpool 3 Aston Villa 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	7	5	2	0	10	1	17
Arsenal	7	4	3	0	16	8	15
Blackburn	7	4	2	1	18	8	14
Leicester	7	4	2	1	10	5	14
Chelsea	6	4	0	2	19	8	12
Liverpool	7	3	3	1	11	6	12
West Ham	7	3	1	3	10	9	10
Newcastle	4	3	0	1	5	4	9
Crystal Palace	7	3	0	4	6	8	9
Coventry	7	2	3	2	7	10	9
Aston Villa	8	3	0	5	8	13	9
Tottenham	7	2	2	3	5	9	8
Everton	6	2	1	3	8	10	7
Leeds	7	2	1	4	8	11	7
Derby	5	2	0	3	5	5	6
Bolton	6	1	3	2	5	8	6
Barnsley	7	2	0	5	6	17	6
Wimbledon	6	1	2	3	6	9	5
Sheff Wed	7	1	2	4	7	15	5
Southampton	7	1	1	5	5	11	4

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Hednesford 1 Leek 0

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde 1 Emley 0 **First division:** Ashton 2 Worksop 1

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Worcester 2 Atherstone 1 **Southern division:** Chelmsford 1 Tonbridge Angels 0, Weston-super-Mare 0 Cinderford 2, Erith and Belvedere 2 Fleet 1

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge 2 Bromley 1 **First division:** Bognor Regis 0 Croydon 1

FA CARLSBERG VASE: First round qualifying replay: Blackpool Rovers 0 Burscough 2

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea 1 Arsenal 2

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 0 Manchester United 4 *First* **division:** Leicester 3 Manchester City 3 **Second division:** Lincoln 0 Sheffield United 5 **Third division:** Wigan 1 Newcastle 2

FA YOUTH CUP: First round qualifying: Preston 1 Sheffield Wednesday 0 **Preliminary round:** Louth 0 Notts County 9

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Sporting Lisbon 1 Boavista 0, Leca 2 FC Porto 3

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Ferro Carril Oeste 1 Rosario Central 1.

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Bishop Vesey's 0 RGS Worcester 48, KS Southampton 20 Dauntseys 7, Latymer Upper 41 Lord Williams, Thame 5, Reeds 0 Kent Coll 34, Rugby 0 Cheltenham 26, Wellington Coll 16 St Edward's, Oxford 31; Woodhouse Grove *34 Leeds GS 3* **Corrected result:** Epsom 18 Harrow 8

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: First leg (Southampton to Cape Town): **Leading positions** (with distance to finish): 1, EF Language (Swe) 6,891.2 miles, 2, Merit Cup (Monaco) 6,891.3, 3, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 6,893, 4, Silk Cut (GB) 6,895, 5, Chessie Racing (US) 6,910.5, 6, Toshiba (US) 6,913

SNOOKER

HEREFORD: German Open: Third qualifying round: S Ali (Pak) bt T Murphy (N Ire) 5-4; L Walker (Wales) bt J Swail (N Ire) 5-3 B Morgan (Eng) bt *J Perry* (Eng) 5-3, B Snaddon (Scot) bt S O'Connor (Ire) 5-3, C Small (Scot) bt K Broughton (Eng) 5-3; J Ferguson (Eng) bt A Hicks (Eng) 5-4, S James (Eng) bt N Walker (Eng) 5-4, J Burnett (Scot) bt R Lawler (Eng) 5-1

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Poole 48 Swindon 42

PREMIER LEAGUE: Glasgow 64 Oxford 26

NORTHERN TROPHY: Second leg: Newcastle 37 Hull 52 (Hull win 104-75 on agg)

SQUASH

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island: US Women's professional championship: Semi-finals: *S Wright (Eng) bt N Grainger (SA)* 9-4, 5-9, 9-7, 9-0, F Geaves (Eng) bt S Horner (Eng) 1-9, 9-7, 9-2, 8-9, 9-6 **Final:** Wright bt Geaves 9-3, 9-1, 9-3

TABLE TENNIS

CHIBA, Japan: Ogimura Cup: Men: Singles: Semi-finals: J-O Waldner (Swe) bt Yan Sen (China) 15-21, 21-15, 21-18, 21-16 Wang Liqin (China) bt J Rosskopf (Ger) 21-14, 21-13, 18-21, 21-14. **Final:** Waldner bt Wang 21-11, 23-21, 21-18 **Doubles: Semi-finals:** H Shibutani and K Matsushita (Japan) bt Lee Chul-Seung and Park Sang-Joon (S Kor) 21-20, 21-23, 23-21, Wang Liqin and Yan Sen (China) bt Yoo Nam-Kyu and Kim Bong-Chul (S Kor) 21-16, 21-18 **Final:** Wang and Yan bt Shibutani and Matsushita 21-15, 21-12 **Women: Singles: Semi-finals:** Wang Chen (China) bt Park *Hae-Jung (S Kor) 21-15, 21-10, 21-30, Sun* Jin (China) bt K Toth (Hun) 21-15, 14-21 21-14, 21-15 **Final:** Wang bt Sun 21-13, 19-21, 21-9, 21-6. **Doubles: Semi-finals:** Park Hae-Jung and Kim Moo-Kyo (S Kor) bt J Gao and A Feng (US) 21-17, 21-18; Ryu Ji-Hye and L Eun-Sil (S Kor) bt Suk Sol-Jin and Suk Eun-Mi (S Kor) 21-19 21-19 **Final:** Ryu and Lee bt Park and Kim 21-14, 14-21, 21-11

TENNIS

TOULOUSE: Men's tournament: First round, T Henman (GB) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; M Martelli (It) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 6-2, 7-6, N Kiefer (Ger) bt P Fredriksson (Swe) 4-6, 6-3 6-1 J Siemerink (Holl) bt S Grosjean (Fr) 6-3, 6-1; V Spadea (US) bt R Furlan (It) 7-6, 6-4, J Gimelstob (US) bt M Sinner (Ger) 7-6, 7-6; M Larsson (Swe) bt G Pozzi (It) 6-3 6-4

BUCHAREST: Men's tournament: First round: First round: F Clavet (Sp) bt K Alami (Morocco) 6-3, 6-3, A Portas (Sp) bt A Martin (Sp) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4; A Berasategui (Sp) bt D Pescariu (Rom) 6-3, 1-6, 7-6

SUNDERLAND: Women's tournament (*GB unless stated*) **First round:** L Gabai (Isr) bt S Turner 6-0, 6-4; N Egorova (Russ) bt C Coombs 6-1, 6-1; L Cartwright bt J While 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; M Wolfbrandt (Swe) bt E Dyrberg (Den) 5-7, 7-6, 6-1, L Latimer bt K Warne-Holland 6-1, 4-6, 6-4; J Dawson bt D Asensio (Switz) 6-2, 6-2, N Payne bt M Le Sueur (SA) 6-3, 6-2, K Elliott bt L Suurvark (Est) 6-3, 6-1; L Ogan bt H Farr 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 C Smith bt M Elwany (Egypt) 6-3, 6-0, L McDonald bt D Kovacova (Slovenia) 6-3, 6-1, A Wainwright bt N Woodhouse 7-5, 6-2

LEIPZIG: Women's tournament: First round: M Oremans (Holl) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 7-6, 6-7, 6-0; *M Maruska (Austria)* bt A Carlsson (Swe) 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, B Schett (Austria) bt A Glass (Ger) 7-6, 6-4; B Paulus (Austria) bt H Sukova (Cz) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, M Maleeva (Bul) bt B Rittner (Ger) 6-2, 6-2

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7 30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership
Arsenal v West Ham (8 0)
Coventry v Crystal Palace (7 45)
Leicester v Blackburn (7 45)
Man Utd v Chelsea (8 0)
Newcastle v Everton (7 45)
Sheff Wed v Derby (7 45)
Southampton v Leeds (7 45)

Nationwide League
First division
QPR v Portsmouth (7 45)

Coca-Cola Cup
Second round, second leg
Stoke (4) v Burnley (0) (7.45)
Wolves (1) v Fulham (0) (7 45)
Walsall (1) v Nottm Forest (0) (7 45)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Kilmarnock v Rangers (7 45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE. Premier division: Forest Green v Dorchester (7.45), Salisbury v Merthyr (7 45) **Midland division:** Paget R v Grantham. **Southern division:** Newport AFC v Clevedon

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Boston. **First division:** Bradford Pk Ave v Whitby

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Leyton Pennant v Aldershot Town. **Second division:** Cheshunt v Wivenhoe

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton v Watford (2.0), Oxford United v Southampton (at Witney Town FC). Tottenham v Charlton (at Leyton Orient FC): Wimbledon v Millwall (at Plough Lane, 2 0): Swindon v Norwich (7 15)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division. Tranmere v Liverpool (7 0) **First division:** Bolton v Sunderland (at Leigh RMI, 7 0), West Bromwich v Oldham (7 0) **Second division:** Carlisle v Stockport (7.0), Rochdale v Blackpool (7 0), Shrewsbury v Barnsley (7 0) **Third division:** Chesterfield v Bury (7 0), Doncaster v Chester (7 0) Hull v Scarborough (7 0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Caersws: Caernarfon v Conwy (7 45): Carmarthen Town v *Inter* Cable-Tel, Cemaes Ynys Mon v Flint Town, Ebbw Vale v Cwmbran, Porthmadog v Rhyl

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE. Premier division: Hallen v Harrow Hill, Swindon Supermarine v Tuffley, Wantage v Shortwood

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Town v Northallerton, Crook v Morpeth, Durham v Consett, Jarrow Roofing v Billingham, Murton v South Shields, Shildon v Seaham Red Star

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First division: Canterbury v Lordswood.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Taunton v Tiverton

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division Cup: Tod*dington v Brache Sparta; Brook House* v Hanwell

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Meir KA v Alvechurch.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE. Premier division: Feltham v Walton Casuals.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Prescot Cables v St Helens Ramsbottom v Newcastle Town

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE. Premier division: Lye Town v Stafford T

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Cowes Sports v Lymington; Eastleigh v Portsmouth

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: N Spencer v W Borough, Spalding v Yaxley

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby v Thackley: Hallam v Ossett Albion

FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round: Wednesfield v Cambridge City **First qualifying round replay:** Atherstone v Halesowen Town, Yeading v St Albans. **Second qualifying round.** King's Lynn v *Wivenhoe*

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cove v Peterhead, Nairn County v Elgin (8 0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester Giants v Chester Jets (7.30): Worthing Bears v Newcastle Eagles (8 0)·

BOWLS: European team championship (Guernsey)

ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Newcastle Cobras v Manchester Storm (7 0) Nottingham Panthers v Cardiff Devils (7 30), *Slough Jets v* Basingstoke Bison (8 0), Peterborough Pirates v Bracknell Bees (7 30)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League King's Lynn v Peterborough (7 45); Poole v Coventry (7 30) **Premier League:** Berwick v Newcastle (6 30).

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (in Sunderland).

هكذا من الاخبار

FOOTBALL

Wenger forced on to the defensive

By Oliver Holt, *Football Correspondent*

IN THE end, Arsène Wenger saw the funny side. The most contemplative and professorial of managers, he had spent the best part of an hour trying to account for the continuing disciplinary problems of his Arsenal team, trying to explain the paradox inherent in his propagation of the beautiful game and the strong-arm tactics of his players.

When it was suggested that the controversy caused by the build-up of cautions — Arsenal players have been shown the yellow card 18 times already this season — might mar the occasion of the end of his first year in charge at Highbury early next month, his face creased into a smile. "You could count the bookings and we will put the same number of candles on a cake for my anniversary," Wenger said.

The issue of Arsenal's ill-discipline had been brought to the fore again in the aftermath of their stormy win over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Sunday. Frank Leboeuf, sent off after fouling Dennis Bergkamp, was reported yesterday to have said that Arsenal, who came bottom of the fair play league last season with 82 bookings and five sendings-off, were the dirtiest side in English football.

Arsenal will go to the top of the FA Carling Premiership if they beat West Ham United at Highbury tonight and Manchester United lose to Chelsea at Old Trafford, but their success has been clouded by the threat of imminent suspension hanging over Bergkamp and Steve Bould, who have each incurred four bookings, and when the team returned from training yesterday, Wenger was forced into a wider defence of his football principles.

"I enjoy it when we play good football," Wenger said, "but that means running quickly, jumping high and, of course, putting your foot in. I do not like players who do not get involved in the fight, I concede that, but I never tell anybody to kick an opponent. Never.

"I know how I want my team to play and I know the criticism of them for being too dirty is not right. It does not really concern me. I do not lose a moment of sleep over it. When you have 40,000 people in a stadium, you have to accept that some people will not like the way you play.

"It is part of being professional that you have to master yourself and your emotions, and we have to avoid getting yellow cards for dissent. But part of the problem is that, against Arsenal, everybody is up for it. If you play a physical match in football, you have to fight.

"Of course, I would feel very bad if we finished bottom of the fair play league again this season. Perhaps we should analyse all the yellow cards we get and see whether we should change our game. I am really thinking of doing it because I cannot explain where we get all these yellow cards from.

"People are even saying that Dennis is a dirty player now, but nobody could convince me of that. I think he is the best player in the Premiership at the moment and if I was not the manager here, I would pay money to watch him play. I think everyone accepts that we are trying to play good football."

That is as maybe, but the people who bake the cakes at Highbury will have to make one big enough for an awful lot of candles.

Ryan Giggs could return to the Manchester United starting line-up for the visit of Chelsea to Old Trafford tonight. "There won't be many changes, but my main decision is whether to use Giggs from the start or from the bench," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said.

Given immune to greenhouse effect

Russell Kempson on the goalkeeper who graduated from market gardening to *St James' Park*

Given is now established as the No I with Newcastle United and Ireland

Five years ago, Shay Given could be found on the outskirts of Lifford, Co Donegal, helping out in the family market gardening business. No matter that he was a promising young footballer, attracting the attention of several leading clubs across the water, there was work to be done. He would fall to his knees amid the acres of vegetables and begin weeding.

Times have changed. Given, 21, no longer gathers potatoes with his four brothers and three sisters. He now contemplates richer pickings in the FA Carling Premiership and European Cup Champions' League as the Newcastle United goalkeeper and, if Ireland can negotiate a play-off, perhaps a place in the World Cup finals.

"Everything has happened so quickly," he said, "and it keeps getting better. I'm still pinching myself. It's a big season for me, my biggest yet, and I just hope I can stay in the first team and maybe win something for the fans."

Since joining Newcastle from Blackburn Rovers during the summer for £1.5 million — the fee, decided by a tribunal, was a snip — Given has confidently seen off the challenges of Shaka Hislop and Pavel Srnicek, the club's resident goalkeepers. Though relatively short for his trade, at 6ft ½ in, his self-assurance, positioning and agility more than compensate.

Barcelona discovered as much when they launched a fierce, late rally in their 3-2 Champions' League defeat on Tyneside last week. West Ham United could find no way past him in Newcastle's 1-0 victory on Saturday and Everton could suffer similar frustration at St James' Park tonight. In Given's fledgeling career, he has kept 19 clean sheets in 28 league matches.

At 14, though, he was undecided about his sporting future. He played centre forward at school and also indulged in the dubious delights of Gaelic football. Seamus, his father, suggested that goalkeeping might be his forte and, at 15, he graduated into the local Donegal League with Lifford Celtic's men's side. "The lads were grand, they looked after me," he said. "They made sure nothing happened to me."

Given still looks as though he needs looking after. His fresh-faced grin radiates innocence and he talks in a shy, warm Irish brogue. Manchester United gave him a trial but, again on the advice of his father, he left Celtic of Lifford for Celtic of Glasgow. The Irish connection — Liam Brady was manager, Packie Bonner the first-team goalkeeper — also tipped the balance away from Old Trafford.

"Packie was my hero," Given said. "I'd always looked up to him."

Though he progressed swiftly to the brink of the senior side, life at Celtic Park was initially fretful. "The first six months were the worst," he said. "Coming from the country and moving to a city the size of Glasgow was very strange. I missed home a lot.

"I sometimes felt like packing it in and going back to Ireland. I suppose all young lads go through it, but I gradually sorted myself out."

He did eventually go home, for two months, when his contract ended and the new deal offered by Lou Macari, Brady's successor, did not meet his approval. The three-year offer from Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, proved more acceptable and he again set off across the Irish Sea.

From playing in Rovers' A team and reserves, Given was loaned out to gain experience. Twelve shut-outs in 17 appearances for Sunderland helped them to win the Nationwide League first division title last year, for which he collected a championship medal, yet on his return to Ewood Park he could find no way past the consistent Tim Flowers.

"I expected it at first but it then got very frustrating," he said. "I got offered another contract but I didn't want to sign. I just wanted to play." Times have changed. The family business is now a golf driving range and Given need no longer scrape his knees in the potato patch. The weeding can wait.

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

AXA EQUITY & LAW

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	Mow And Go Hap (N Johns)	30024	26	Wells Fargo (BE Howes)	28221	51	Edward Ross (A Luckhurst)	27694	76	Lamar Old Boys (P Tranter)	27423
2	M J S 1 (M Squires)	29852	27	Off Spinners In A (A Milroy)	28217	52	Orchid-I N T Com-I (N Jones)	27693	77	Three Gee's Team (R Anyaratnam)	27397
3	Orchid M & O (N Johns)	29456	28	Porlus (W Clarke)	28187	53	(J Coward)	27684	78=	National Power (GT Childs)	27390
4	The Funky Monkeys (A Moss)	29308	29	Carolyn Is Fuzz (J Eaton)	28171	54	Ashes Coming Home (JH Stewart)	27683	78=	Capricorn 6 (P Stewart)	27390
5	*Dawns Dynamos (Miss D Shepherd)*	29278	30	*Three Lobs (P Johnson)*	28126	55	*Claremont 4 (M Gardiner)*	27675	80	*Melvyn Maldini X I (ID Wray)*	27386
6	Dave's Dependables (D Tattoo)	29273	31	Sam's The Man 3 (G Sampson)	28088	56	Daves Demons (D Taggoo)	27672	81	The Band Played On (M Reed)	27371
7	Old Wringtonians (TJ Hillman)	29161	32	The Sunshine Brand (J Shepherd)	28072	57	Harrow Blues - B (A Vasa)	27668	82	Cheadle S H (M Roberts)	27360
8	Kalb's Corkers 4 (N Kalb)	29051	33	Bacardi Boys (M Woodley)	28066	58	The Nudgers (D Blower)	27618	83	Ell's 11 (G Angell)	27356
9	Brains Team (Howes)	28975	34	Friday Night X I (B McFerran)	28061	59	Sudbrook Park (C Wyatt)	27576	84	Meg's Eleven (S Simmons)	27341
10	The Twins (B Collinson)	28974	35	The Runrats (D Tattoo)	27974	60	Fantasy Formbk E (G Crutchley)	27575	85	Ace All Rounders (A Eade)	27339
11	Wanstord House 3 (PR O'Brien)	28941	36	Injury Free X I (IJ Hunt)	27965	61	Tessmungus (J Eaton)	27571	86	Linseeds (R Hoy)	27336
12	*Sams The Man 5 (G Sampson)*	28919	37	*Teddy 2 (B Bare)*	27947	62	*Mo And Go (N Johns)*	27569	87	*Wells Bells X I* ——	27335
13	Hursts Cack Hander (R Jackson)	28803	38	Spike Thomas Eleve (TE Webb)	27940	63	Wakering Wanderers (D Brunt)	27562	88	Monty Bears (M White)	27317
14	Colemans Balls (D Blackburn)	28638	39	Retirement Hero's (M Pettman)	27884	64	Woody's Wonders (DA Wood)	27559	89	Freds Truemen 3 (Toby Scullor)	27306
15	Rob's Barmy Army (R Anderson)	28565	40	Basil's Bashers (S Moore)	27824	65	Ken's 2nd X I (K Hannah)	27540	90	Tobes (A Lockhurst)	27298
16	Barney Boys (BE Howes)	28539	41	Philosofirsts (P Shorter)	27815	66	All Round Ability (W Burnett)	27536	91	Four Ian Bothams (P Johnson)	27276
17	Paulines Stars (Ms P Howell)	28536	42	Roe Roe Roe Your B (R Roe)	27814	67	J S W C 256 (J Swirles)	27519	92	All Rounders X I (N Pember)	27273
18	Nine Ian Bothams (P Johnson)	28481	43	Alisa Angels (A Wood)	27793	68	Legionnaires (C Hulme)	27510	93	Cats Eyes (N Marchant)	27238
19	Ian's Imperials (I Johnston)	28423	44=	Kim's Best (D Geraghty)	27785	69	*Caroline A (A Luckhurst)*	27509	94	Cleck Yorkies (M Hepworth)	27229
20	Daves Dosers (D Tattoo)	28421	44=	Fantasy Formbk I (G Crutchley)	27785	70	Ward's Wickstaker' (AB Ward)	27503	95	Off 2 A Good Start (J Swirles)	27228
21	Ken's First X I (K Hannah)	28367	46	Tobutt (A Luckhurst)	27782	71	B R C Allstars (I Todd)	27452	96	Baby Spice (I Hunt)	27220
22	Windy's Warriors (G Miller)	28365	47	Ventys Vintage No ——	27746	72=	Kalb's Corkers 1 (N Kalb)	27450	97	Eddie Woo (A Luckhurst)	27212
23	Sarawana (R Knowle)	28246	48	Huntastic (A Frazer)	27730	72=	Thunder Bunnies (DC Bales)	27450	98	Crofts Original (I Hunt)	27207
24	The 1997 X I (Miss JM Hutchin)	28229	49	Whatifitsagirl (A Robinson)	27716	74	D J S 2 (D Fenton)	27448	99	The Stumpsters (J Eaton)	27206
25	DAISY MAY (P Coward)	28223	50	14 Lobs (P Johnson)	27711	75	The Sad Team (J Swain)	27430	100	The Lost Cause (I Andrews)	27196

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in the first four columns cover the past week; the final column is the player's overall points total. The figures include all matches completed by September 21. Overseas players are shown in **bold** type, Rising Stars in *italic*.

Batsmen (001-146)

Category A

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Bonus pts	Weekly total	Overall total
C J Adams (001)	0	0	0	0	0	1820
G F Archer (002)	0	0	0	0	0	1155
M A Atherton (003)	72	0	1	5	97	1840
C W J Athey (004)	0	0	0	0	0	1204
R J Bailey (005)	0	0	0	0	0	2457
K J Barnett (006)	235	0	1	10	265	1696
D J Bicknell (007)	130	0	0	-10	120	730
G S Blewett (008)	0	0	0	0	0	1655
D C Boon (009)	110	0	1	5	135	1954
P D Bowler (010)	66	0	3	5	131	1795
A D Brown (011)	4	0	0	-20	-16	1769
M A Butcher (012)	68	6	3	0	248	2463
P A Cottey (013)	13	0	0	0	13	1192
J P Crawley (014)	87	0	1	5	112	2121
K M Curran (015)	57	2	1	-15	102	2373
M T G Elliott (016)	0	0	0	0	0	1963
N H Fairbrother (017)	104	0	2	5	149	1810
J E R Gallian (018)	0	0	0	0	0	1267
M W Gatting (019)	41	0	1	0	61	1657
G A Gooch (020)	0	0	0	0	0	562
M L Hayden (021)	102	0	1	5	127	2772
D L Hemp (022)	26	0	0	0	26	2058
G A Hick (023)	331	4	1	10	441	3275
A J Hollioake (024)	0	0	0	0	0	2449
N Hussain (025)	104	0	1	-10	114	2444
S P James (026)	17	0	2	0	57	2585
D M Jones (027)	0	0	0	0	0	554
J H Kallis (028)	0	0	0	0	0	2577
N V Knight (029)	12	0	1	0	32	1281
J S Laney (030)	91	0	0	0	91	1465
M N Lathwell (031)	109	0	0	5	114	1423
G D Lloyd (032)	0	0	0	0	0	1479
M B Loye (033)	0	0	0	0	0	628
M P Maynard (034)	142	0	1	10	172	2281
A McGrath (035)	40	0	0	0	40	1216
R R Montgomerie (036)	58	0	2	5	103	806
T M Moody (037)	180	2	1	10	250	2599
H Morris (038)	166	0	4	10	256	1717
M D Moxon (039)	0	0	0	0	0	640
T L Penney (040)	27	0	0	-20	7	1485
M R Ramprakash (041)	5	0	0	0	5	2328
R T Robinson (042)	107	0	0	5	112	1185
P V Simmons (043)	0	0	0	0	0	0
M J Slater (044)	0	0	0	0	0	237
B F Smith (045)	35	0	0	0	35	1120
R A Smith (046)	0	0	0	0	0	1589
A J Stewart (047)	174	0	2	10	224	3490
M A Taylor (048)	0	0	0	0	0	1290
G P Thorpe (049)	0	0	0	0	0	2952
M P Vaughan (050)	21	0	0	0	21	1437
T R Ward (051)	23	0	3	0	83	2194
M E Waugh (052)	0	0	0	0	0	1596
S R Waugh (053)	0	0	0	0	0	1739
A P Wells (054)	60	0	1	0	80	1858
V J Wells (055)	6	3	1	0	86	2390
W P C Weston (056)	38	0	0	0	38	1444
J J Whitaker (057)	123	0	1	5	148	1497

Category B

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Bonus pts	Weekly total	Overall total
D A Blenkiron (058)	0	0	0	0	0	0
D Byas (059)	69	0	0	5	74	2262
M E Cassar (060)	0	3	2	0	100	533
G R Cowdrey (061)	40	0	0	0	40	1086
R J Cunliffe (062)	0	0	0	0	0	529
T S Curtis (063)	0	0	0	0	0	1153
A Dale (064)	8	0	0	0	8	1537
J A Daley (065)	46	0	1	0	66	86
R I Dawson (066)	44	0	1	0	64	500
M P Dowman (067)	2	0	1	-20	2	1775
A W Evans (068)	0	0	0	0	0	151
A Flintoff (069)	0	0	0	0	0	376
A Fordham (070)	120	0	1	5	145	1017
D P Fulton (071)	110	0	1	-10	120	1416
A P Grayson (072)	7	1	0	-20	7	3159
K Greenfield (073)	0	0	0	0	0	1189
A Habib (074)	0	0	0	0	0	515
T H C Hancock (075)	24	0	1	-20	24	1671
R J Harden (076)	0	0	0	0	0	631
J C Harrison (077)	0	0	0	0	0	0
A N Hayhurst (078)	0	0	0	0	0	60
G R Haynes (079)	0	0	1	0	20	2255
D R Hewson (080)	47	0	0	0	47	116
A J Hibbert (081)	0	0	0	0	0	77
T P Hodgson (082)	0	0	0	0	0	258
P C L Holloway (083)	25	0	0	-20	5	1528
W J House (084)	0	0	0	0	0	447
S Hutton (085)	21	0	0	0	21	496
P Johnson (086)	133	0	0	10	143	1911
M Keech (087)	0	0	0	0	0	929
W S Kendall (088)	14	0	0	0	14	844
G J Kennis (089)	0	0	0	0	0	69
R A Kettleborough (090)	0	0	0	0	0	50
G A Khan (091)	0	0	0	0	0	205
W G Khan (092)	0	0	0	0	0	169
D A Leatherdale (093)	0	0	4	0	80	2675
N J Lenham (094)	0	0	0	0	0	396
J J B Lewis (095)	11	0	0	0	11	1737
N J Llong (096)	0	0	0	0	0	960
M A Lynch (097)	0	0	0	0	0	1133
G I Macmillan (098)	0	0	0	0	0	204
D L Maddy (099)	36	1	4	0	136	2166
M R May (100)	0	0	0	0	0	648
P C McKeown (101)	0	0	0	0	0	209
A A Metcalfe (102)	0	0	0	0	0	484
S P Moffat (103)	0	0	0	0	0	295
A J Moles (104)	0	0	0	0	0	935
J E Morris (105)	103	0	0	5	108	1650
K Newell (106)	75	0	0	-15	60	1418
D P Ostler (107)	78	0	1	5	103	1793
J E Owen (108)	0	0	0	0	0	164
K A Parsons (109)	0	0	0	0	0	1241
S D Peters (110)	0	0	0	0	0	202
P R Pollard (111)	56	0	2	0	96	768
J C Pooley (112)	0	0	0	0	0	1536
M J Powell (113)	0	0	0	0	0	60
P J Prichard (114)	28	0	0	0	28	1861
T A Radford (115)	0	0	0	0	0	181
R K Rao (116)	0	0	0	0	0	1051
J D Ratcliffe (117)	0	0	0	-40	-40	1369
D J Roberts (118)	0	0	0	0	0	415
D D J Robinson (119)	137	0	3	10	207	1408
A S Rollins (120)	0	0	0	0	0	1487
M A Roseberry (121)	0	0	0	0	0	293
D J G Sales (122)	27	0	1	0	47	869
O A Shah (123)	91	0	3	5	156	1105
N Shahid (124)	8	0	1	-20	8	333
A Singh (125)	0	0	0	0	0	463
E T Smith (126)	42	0	1	0	62	1151
N J Speak (127)	0	0	0	0	0	654
K R Spiring (128)	66	0	0	0	66	1404
J P Stephenson (129)	57	0	0	0	57	2426
I J Sutcliffe (130)	33	0	0	0	33	1104
A J Swann (131)	136	0	0	10	146	172
N R Taylor (132)	60	0	0	0	60	1330
S P Titchard (133)	0	0	0	0	0	260
N J Trainor (134)	0	0	0	0	0	659
M E Trescothick (135)	36	0	0	0	36	569
T A Tweats (136)	210	0	2	10	260	830
M J Walker (137)	0	0	0	0	0	1006
M A Wagh (138)	88	0	0	5	93	1491
C D Walsh (139)	0	0	0	0	0	0
T C Walton (140)	6	0	0	0	6	513
P E Wellings (141)	0	0	0	0	0	33
R M S Weston (142)	0	0	0	0	0	256
P R Whitaker (143)	34	1	0	0	54	182
G W White (144)	107	0	0	5	112	1017
M G N Windows (145)	10	0	0	-20	-10	492
A J Wright (146)	0	0	0	0	0	1073

All-rounders (147-185)

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Bonus pts	Weekly total	Overall total
M W Alleyne (147)	93	1	0	5	118	3101
I D Austin (148)	53	4	0	-15	118	2261
M G Bevan (149)	0	0	0	0	0	1067
D R Brown (150)	73	5	1	10	203	3243
G P Butcher (151)	0	0	0	0	0	900
D J Capel (152)	0	0	0	0	0	504
P D Collingwood (153)	0	0	0	0	0	539
D G Cork (154)	0	0	0	0	0	643
R D B Croft (155)	86	2	1	5	151	2969
P A J DeFreitas (156)	0	10	1	30	250	2143
V C Drakes (157)	0	0	0	0	0	1204
K P Dutch (158)	0	0	0	0	0	710
M A Ealham (159)	70	3	1	5	155	3202
S C Ecclestone (160)	10	0	2	-20	30	1658
K P Evans (161)	8	0	0	0	8	1499
M V Fleming (162)	41	2	1	-20	81	2570
J P Hewitt (163)	75	5	0	5	180	1938
K J Innes (164)	0	0	0	0	0	79
R C Irani (165)	5	0	2	-20	25	1985
K D James (166)	0	0	0	0	0	984
B P Julian (167)	0	0	0	0	0	432
S R Lampitt (168)	0	2	0	0	40	1864
D R Law (169)	60	2	0	0	100	1738
S G Law (170)	84	0	1	5	89	3218
C C Lewis (171)	27	1	2	-20	67	1916
A C Morris (172)	0	0	0	-40	-40	579
A L Penberthy (173)	14	1	1	0	54	1760
G M Roberts (174)	0	0	0	0	0	56
N M K Smith (175)	36	3	1	0	96	2366
J N Snape (176)	0	0	0	0	0	1174
V S Solanki (177)	0	0	0	0	0	1027
P A Strang (178)	0	0	0	0	0	2871
C M Tolley (179)	0	0	0	0	0	1868
Wasim Akram (180)	0	0	0	0	0	288
M Watkinson (181)	5	3	3	0	125	1360
P N Weekes (182)	26	0	4	-20	86	1627
C M Wells (183)	0	0	0	0	0	0
C White (184)	0	0	0	0	0	2943
S Young (185)	107	0	2	10	157	2573

Wicketkeepers (186-216)

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Bonus pts	Weekly total	Overall total
A N Aymes (186)	38	0	0	0	38	2007
J N Batty (187)	0	0	0	0	0	269
R J Blakey (188)	81	0	3	5	146	2587
K R Brown (189)	14	0	5	0	114	2262
M Burns (190)	46	0	0	0	46	1600
C A Chapman (191)	0	0	0	0	0	84
I Dawood (192)	0	0	0	0	0	91
T Frost (193)	0	0	0	0	0	905
S P Griffiths (194)	0	0	0	0	0	81
I A Healy (195)	0	0	0	0	0	2193
W K Hegg (196)	29	0	3	0	89	2052
B J Hyam (197)	12	0	2	0	52	318
D A Kenway (198)	0	0	0	0	0	82
K M Krikken (199)	23	0	3	0	83	1989
D G C Ligertwood (200)	0	0	0	0	0	0
S A Marsh (201)	16	0	6	0	136	2410
C P Metson (202)	0	0	0	0	0	80
P Moores (203)	117	0	1	10	147	1851
P A Nixon (204)	44	0	3	0	104	2625
W M Noon (205)	25	0	0	0	25	1835
K J Piper (206)	6	0	2	-20	26	983
S J Rhodes (207)	0	0	1/1	0	60	2149
D Ripley (208)	48	0	0/1	0	88	1775
R J Rollins (209)	0	0	0	0	0	1638
R C Russell (210)	41	0	2/1	0	121	2657
A D Shaw (211)	53	0	3	5	118	1669
M P Speight (212)	12	0	6	-20	112	2177
R J Turner (213)	78	0	0	0	78	2686
R J Warren (214)	0	0	0	0	0	1294
P Whitecase (215)	0	0	0	0	0	0
R C J Williams (216)	0	0	0	0	0	-20

Bowlers (217-347)

Category A

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Bonus pts	Weekly total	Overall total
J A Afford (217)	0	0	0	0	0	0
S J W Andrew (218)	0	0	0	0	0	159
M C J Ball (219)	6	1	4	0	106	1984
R T Bates (220)	0	2	1	0	60	624
J E Benjamin (221)	17	2	0	-20	37	590
M M Betts (222)	25	6	1	0	165	1218
M P Bicknell (223)	0	0	0	0	0	2043
J N B Bovill (224)	0	0	0	0	0	727
M T Brimson (225)	30	0	0	-20	10	439
S J E Brown (226)	3	10	0	40	243	1586
A R Caddick (227)	67	4	0	5	152	3005
G Chapple (228)	18	3	1	0	98	841
C A Connor (229)	0	0	0	0	0	244
A P Cowan (230)	78	4	0	5	163	2272
D M Cox (231)	0	0	0	0	0	146
R P Davis (232)	56	4	0	0	136	820
A A Donald (233)	0	0	0	0	0	2430
A R C Fraser (234)	5	2	0	0	45	1769
A F Giles (235)	118	1	0	5	143	2325
J N Gillespie (236)	0	0	0	0	0	1163
D Gough (237)	0	0	0	0	0	2072
A J Harris (238)	0	4	0	0	80	1431
P J Hartley (239)	0	0	0	0	0	1365
D W Headley (240)	0	0	0	0	0	1554
R K Illingworth (241)	0	10	1	30	250	679
M C Ilott (242)	49	6	0	0	169	1252
P W Jarvis (243)	13	1	0	0	33	1342
R L Johnson (244)	27	2	2	0	107	1760
G Keedy (245)	0	5	0	0	100	581
R J Kirtley (246)	0	4	1	0	100	983
J D Lewry (247)	0	0	0	0	0	0
M J McCague (248)	0	0	0	0	0	1408
G D McGrath (249)	0	0	0	0	0	1931
D E Malcolm (250)	0	0	0	0	0	1633
P J Martin (251)	0	0	0	0	0	2113
R J Maru (252)	0	0	0	0	0	381
D J Millns (253)	41	10	0	10	251	1645
Mohammad Akram (254)	0	0	0	0	0	898
A D Mullally (255)	0	0	0	0	0	995
T A Munton (256)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mushtaq Ahmed (257)	0	0	0	0	0	1639
P J Newport (258)	0	0	0	0	0	760
G J Parsons (259)	0	0	0	0	0	728
M M Patel (260)	0	0	0	0	0	0
R M Pearson (261)	0	0	0	0	0	61
A R K Pierson (262)	86	0	1	5	111	1135
P R Reiffel (263)	0	0	0	0	0	1306
G D Rose (264)	80	1	0	5	105	3048
I D K Salisbury (265)	23	1	3	0	103	1352
A Sheriyar (266)	0	2	1	0	60	1844
K J Shine (267)	6	2	1	-20	46	1388
C E W Silverwood (268)	51	2	0	0	91	1897
A M Smith (269)	0	5	0	0	100	2305
R D Stemp (270)	0	0	0	0	0	1381
P M Such (271)	1	2	0	0	41	2043
J P Taylor (272)	27	4	0	0	107	1737
P C R Tufnell (273)	0	2	0	-20	20	1429
S D Udal (274)	71	1	0	5	96	2359
S K Warne (275)	0	0	0	0	0	2221
Waqar Younis (276)	5	4	0	0	85	2154
S L Watkin (277)	5	6	0	0	125	1608
N F Williams (278)	0	0	0	0	0	436
J Wood (279)	20	2	0	-20	40	546

Category B

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Bonus pts	Weekly total	Overall total
U Afzaal (280)	111	2	0	5	156	1234
P Aldred (281)	0	1	2	0	60	762
D A Altree (282)	0	0	0	0	0	40
G J Batty (283)	0	0	0	0	0	0
M A V Bell (284)	0	1	0	0	20	90
J Boiling (285)	36	0	2	0	76	1214
M N Bowen (286)	0	0	0	0	0	1412
J E Brinkley (287)	0	0	0	0	0	7
J F Brown (288)	0	5	1	-20	100	465
R J Chapman (289)	0	0	1	0	20	343
V P Clarke (290)	8	0	0	0	8	1738
D A Cosker (291)	7	3	0	0	67	844
D M Cousins (292)	0	0	0	0	0	21
A P Davies (293)	0	0	0	0	0	43
K J Dean (294)	0	0	0	0	0	726
R R Dibden (295)	0	0	0	0	0	0
M Dimond (296)	0	0	0	0	0	4
S W K Ellis (297)	0	0	0	0	0	0
J E Emburey (298)	0	0	0	0	0	534
R A Fay (299)	0	0	0	0	0	83
D Follett (300)	0	0	0	0	0	188
M J Foster (301)	0	0	0	0	0	1521
P J Franks (302)	27	3	1	0	107	1244
R J Green (303)	0	0	0	0	0	266
G M Hamilton (304)	30	0	0	0	30	844
S Herzberg (305)	0	0	0	0	0	371
J E Hindson (306)	0	0	0	0	0	297
B C Hollioake (307)	4	4	2	0	124	1892
J G Hughes (308)	0	0	0	0	0	85
P M Hutchison (309)	18	2	0	0	58	819
A P Igglesden (310)	1	3	0	0	61	486
J I D Kerr (311)	0	0	0	0	0	853
N Killeen (312)	0	0	0	0	0	326
J Lewis (313)	32	6	0	10	162	1516
S Lugsden (314)	0	0	0	0	0	24
R S C Martin-Jenkins (315)	42	0	0	0	42	202
A D Mascarenhas (316)	0	0	0	0	0	64
T J Mason (317)	0	0	0	0	0	476
S M Milburn (318)	0	0	0	0	0	524
R W Nowell (319)	0	0	0	0	0	0
J Ormond (320)	1	3	0	-20	41	1080
O T Parkin (321)	0	0	0	0	0	182
M W Patterson (322)	0	0	0	0	0	0
B J Phillips (323)	22	5	1	0	142	1412
N C Phillips (324)	0	0	0	0	0	56
R A Pick (325)	0	0	0	0	0	223
N W Preston (326)	0	0	0	0	0	28
M Rawnsley (327)	0	0	0	0	0	283
S J Renshaw (328)	48	1	0	0	68	1627
M A Robinson (329)	0	0	0	0	0	1225
M J Saggers (330)	0	0	0	0	0	349
J P Searle (331)	0	0	0	0	0	0
D J Shadford (332)	4	3	1	0	84	879
K P Sheeraz (333)	0	0	0	0	0	84
G C Small (334)	0	0	0	0	0	784
E J Stanford (335)	0	0	0	0	0	52
S D Thomas (336)	0	5	1	-10	110	1801
J B Thompson (337)	0	7	0	-20	120	988
M J Thursfield (338)	0	0	0	0	0	154
H R J Trump (339)	0	0	0	0	0	101
A J Tudor (340)	0	0	0	0	0	396
M J Vandrau (341)	0	0	0	0	0	349
A P van Troost (342)	0	0	0	0	0	120
A Walker (343)	1	2	0	-20	21	1057
G Welch (344)	19	0	0	0	19	2351
A G Wharf (345)	0	0	0	0	0	0
T N Wren (346)	0	0	0	0	0	51
G Yates (347)	0	0	0	0	0	1247

☐ One point is awarded for each run, 20 points for each wicket and catch and 40 points for each stumping.

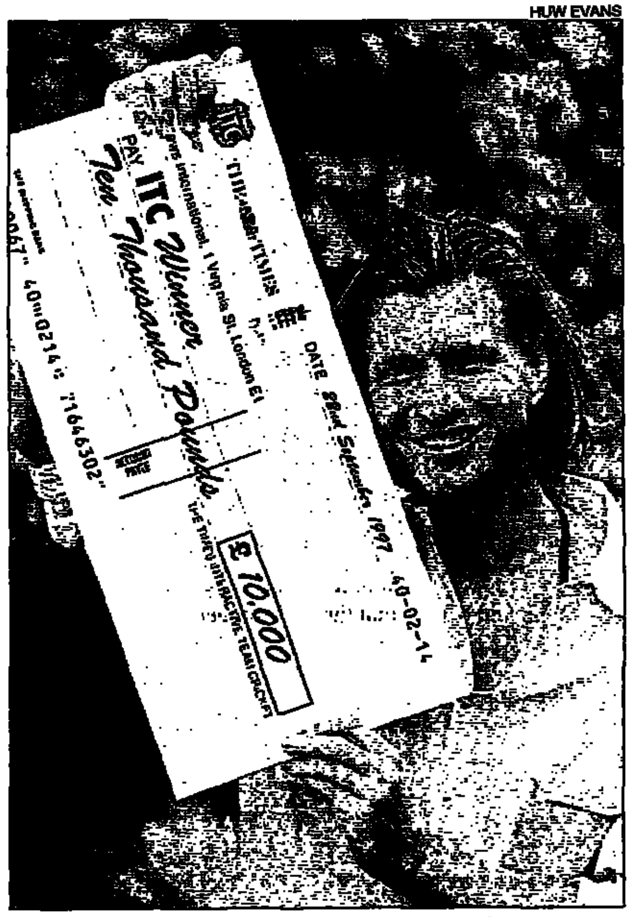
Five bonus points are awarded for a half-century, ten bonus points are awarded for a century and for five wickets in an innings, and 20 bonus points are awarded for ten wickets in a match.

Twenty points are deducted for a duck.

All points scored in Test matches are doubled.

☐ *Source: ECB/PA Cricket Record*

HUW EVANS



Johns shows off his ITC winner's cheque for £10,000

Hick helps winner over finishing line

By Richard Hobson

NICHOLAS JOHNS arrived home from work on Saturday to discover that his beloved Glamorgan had won the Britannic Assurance county championship for the first time in 28 years, but had to wait another 48 hours before confirmation arrived that he is the winner of the £10,000 first prize in *The Times's* Interactive Team Cricket (ITC) game.

Johns, 30, from Ogmore-by-Sea, near Bridgend, had led the table for the previous three weeks and was keeping a close check on the scoreboards. "I thought I might have won but at the same time I did not like to build up my hopes in case my sums were wrong," he said.

Work commitments mean that he rarely finds the time to watch the professional game. As well as lecturing in English at Swansea College, he runs a part-time ground maintenance business, Mow And Go, after which he has named his team.

His selections reveal a shrewd insight into the first-class scene and the requirements of ITC. All of his five "specialist" batsmen can turn their arm over while three of his four bowlers could be considered all-rounders. Moreover, he has demonstrated that great selectorial knack of switching the right players at the right time.

Last week he was forced to choose between Graeme Hick and Alec Stewart in a final reshuffle. "At this stage I knew that every decision might make the difference between winning or losing. I must have spent all night thinking about the last Category A batsman." He opted for Hick, and switched on Ceefax on Thursday night to see the Worcestershire batsman 253 not out.

CHAMPIONS

FINAL MOW AND GO XI

Batsmen

G A Hick (Worcestershire)
T M Moody (Worcestershire)
G R Haynes (Worcestershire)
D A Leatherdale (Worcestershire)
A P Grayson (Essex)

All-rounder

R D B Croft (Glamorgan)

Wicketkeeper

R J Blakey (Yorkshire)

Bowlers

A R Caddick (Somerset)
G D Rose (Somerset)
B C Hollioake (Surrey)
G Welch (Warwickshire)

☐ T. Croome of Leatherhead, Surrey, is the final ITC weekly winner of the season, with his team, Kenilworth Kings. He wins a framed and signed print of Michael Atherton, the England captain, a signed first edition of the Professional Cricketers' Association yearbook and £100.

KENILWORTH KINGS: Batsmen: G Hick (Worcestershire), T Moody (Worcestershire), D Maddy (Leicestershire), J Stephenson (Hampshire), P Johnson (Nottinghamshire). All-rounder: R Croft (Glamorgan). Wicketkeeper: P Nixon (Leicestershire). Bowlers: J Lewis (Gloucestershire), A Tudor (Surrey), D Millns (Leicestershire), S Brown (Durham)

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LYNNE TRUSS

At Valderrama

It's a team thing, the Ryder Cup. They keep telling us how special and emotional it is, and I believe them. But for the five hours it took for the practising players to complete the 18 holes here yesterday, it became rather exhausting scanning the body language for that special Ryder Cup "I-love-you-Nick-(sniff)", "I-love-you-too-Colin" stuff that we are being geared up to expect.

Some really fab golf would have been a nice substitute, while the New Man feelings bubble and stew in anticipation of the weekend — but since this was the first practice day (with two more to go before competition starts), fab golf was understandably being kept in reserve.

It was an odd day, low-key but interesting, warm and windy and with *the longest queue for a bottle of pop* I've seen at a sporting event. Punters in tailored shorts happily roamed the place; all nationalities, it seems, favour the tailored short. Anyway, flushed with my own experience of playing here just a few weeks ago, I followed the third four-ball of Europeans round the course — Lee Westwood with Ian Woosnam; Thomas Bjorn with Bernhard Langer — and sent out as many encouraging "I-love-you-Thomas", "I-love-you-Bernhard" vibes as I could manage.

Seve keeps saying that the more experienced players should help the rookies, and I felt I should tell them all that I knew about Valderrama. For example, steer clear of the trees! Keep out of the rough! Putt uphill if possible, but remember some of the uphills are really cunningly deceptive downhills! All these points may seem self-evident, but on the other hand, perhaps they cannot be repeated too often.

For, let's face it, nobody's perfect. On the 2nd yesterday, against all conventional wisdom ("Shape your drive with a shade of draw," advises *Valderrama: The First Ten Years*), Bjorn's tee-shot found him slap-bang behind the cork tree in the middle of the fairway. Oops. On the third, Woosnam misjudged the spongy nature of the deathly rough (it has some of the qualities of anti-matter), and found himself executing one of those terrible chip-shots the rest of us do — the shot in which the ball is confidently struck, with full follow-through, yet just hops six inches, and stops. I love you, Ian. I just wish you wouldn't smoke, that's all. But I love you and I wish I'd warned you about the rough.

There is, of course, a problem applying my own experience to those of the players because these blokes tend not to end up in the same positions on the course as the no-hope brigade. Those straight, strong 250-yard tee-shots cruelly deprive them of the chance to perform "snake-killer of the Serengeti" impersonations in the long grass. Of my chosen four-ball, only Ian Woosnam — in a calamitous outward nine — consistently made the effort to test the course to its limits, by obstinately missing all the fairways, like a child insisting on eating off the table next to the plate, or sitting on the floor when there's a chair.

Mercifully, things improved for him. But for a while, most of Woosnam's shots were greeted, not by the usual congratulatory *Jawohl* or *¡Olé!* but by shrieks from hastily bent heads.

Having previous knowledge of a famous course was a strange feeling. What happened to all the bunker-rakes, then? Where did all these ropes and toilets and Cartier nick-nacks come from? As the players made short work of the par three 6th, it was pleasant to reflect that on this lovely fairway I recently remembered the existence of the follow-through (an inspiration!), and improved my swing 100 per cent.

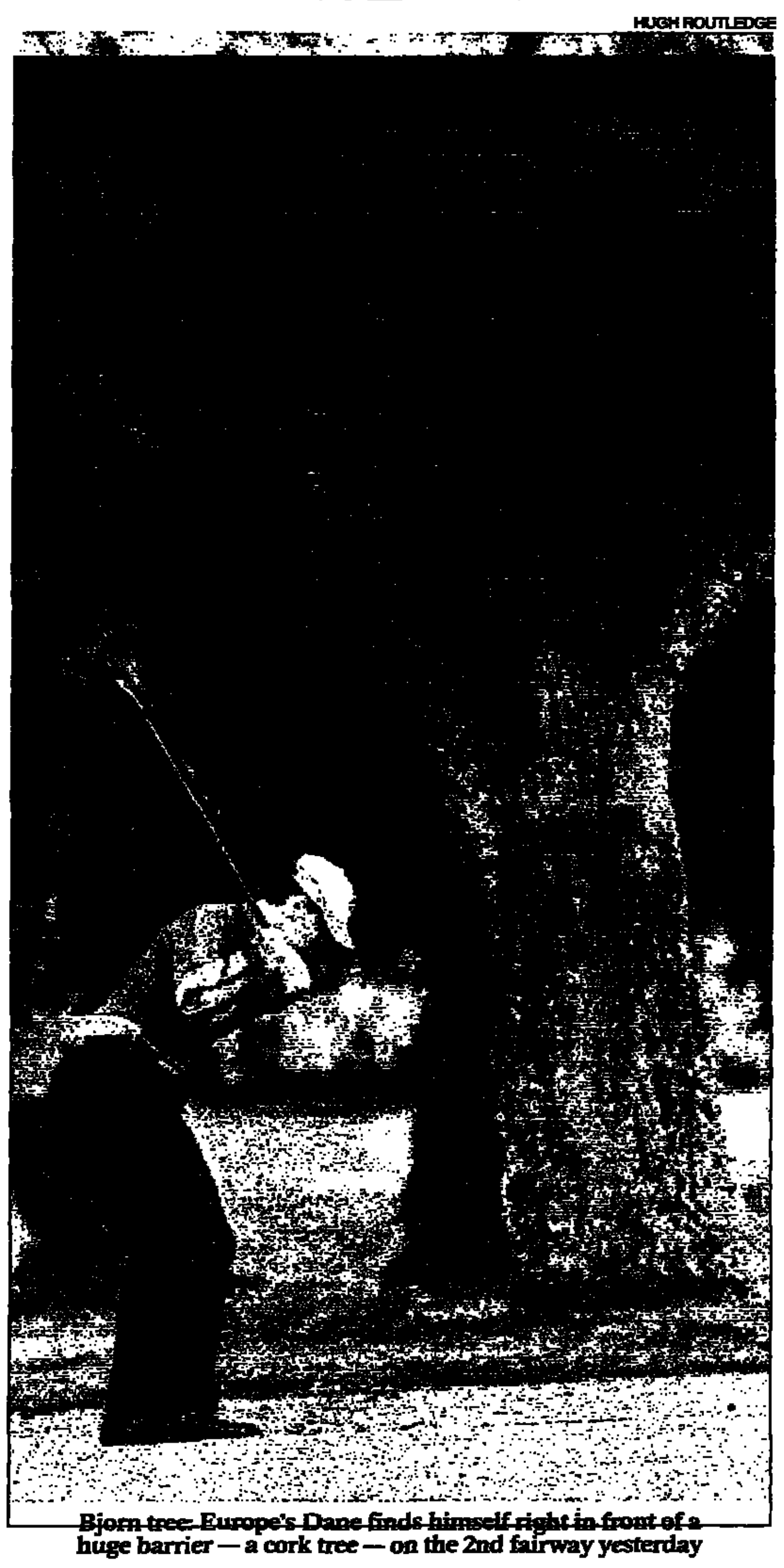
As they assaulted the big par five waterfall hole (the 4th) I remembered how — heeding the advice of a well-weathered Valderrama member — I simply skipped both 4 and 5, and didn't tell anyone.

Were these guys playing to win, or to learn, or to test tactics, or to *bond*? I was suprised, at the end, to learn they had been scoring their match, with Langer and Bjorn formally winning 2 and 1. Many of the holes ended in a rather casual near-as-dammit putt ("That'll do"), that encouraged me to think that it wasn't too serious. But, of course, it was. At the same time as these chaps are finding their feet on the course, they are proving their worth to their leader, Seve, who will pick from them later in the week. "We don't play for Seve: we play for Europe," Costantino Rocca said yesterday. Which sounded convincing, except that it's not Europe that might leave you out of the foursomes.

That famous Ryder Cup feeling is definitely on its way, but yesterday it was only the Little Touch of Seve moments that kindled it. What a man. Suddenly his personal buggy would appear, emblazoned with "Capitan European", and a lovely vision of tanned, concerned Spanishness (with an earpiece) would descend to show his troops the way.

Finding Woosnam in a dense thicket at the 8th, Seve talked him through the shot, made gestures with the heel of his hand, stood back, and was then nearly brained by the hilarious whizz-crack ricochet that inevitably resulted. A lot of bonding went on in that moment, you could tell.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Bjorn tree: Europe's Dane finds himself right in front of a huge barrier — a cork tree — on the 2nd fairway yesterday

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EQUESTRIANISM: WEMBLEY GALA FIGHTS FOR SURVIVAL AFTER HEAVY FINANCIAL LOSSES

Riders insist that the show must go on

By Jenny MacArthur

THIS is make or break time for the Horse of the Year Show, which gets under way with the national grade C showjumping championship at Wembley Arena today. Founded in 1949, the show — which 20 years ago was watched by 50,000 in the arena and more than six million nightly on television — is fighting for survival. Loss of television coverage and key sponsors have taken their toll and three revamps in as many years have failed to halt the decline.

The show might have ended in June — after Wembley sacked the management firm, EPS (HOYS) Ltd — had not Grandstand Media, a firm already involved with the show, decided to take up the reins. Neither Grandstand Media nor Wembley, who took out a seven-year lease on the show from the British Show Jumping Association in 1993, underestimate the task. Paul Streeter, the director of Wembley Arena, said: "We obviously can't continue to run shows at a loss."

Mark Wein, a director of Grandstand Media, who has found sponsors for most of the events this week, though not the grand prix, is realistic in his aims. "We've set out to break even," he said. "The show costs £1 million to stage and, thanks to one or two individuals putting in a substantial amount, the show is going ahead. We accepted that, at this late stage, we could not make changes to the schedule or prize-money, but we have made other cost savings."

The show's future depends on rekindling the heady atmosphere of the Seventies and early Eighties, when riders and spectators alike thrilled to Wembley's special magic. In the words of David Broome, who first competed in 1951: "It was the grand finale of the summer season — an end-of-term show which brought together all the fanatics of the horse world because there was something for everyone."

John Whitaker, who competes in his 26th Wembley show this week, against his fellow Great Britain team members, Robert Smith, Geoff Billington and Michael Whitaker, said: "It would be terrible to lose it. It was watching the show on television as a boy which inspired me to go into the sport. It was like magic when I first rode there."

John Whitaker and Billington carry heavy burdens this week. In addition to competing, they are leading the entertainment side of the show with daily performances of their "Simply The Best" display. Their act, a hilarious guide to teaching yourself to jump — featuring the great horse, Milton — looks sure to be one of the highlights.

Billington's horse, It's Otto, will be another. Last year, the Dutch-bred gelding, on which Billington came sixth in the Olympic Games in Atlanta, missed Wembley to compete at the richer Bremen Show, in Germany. Billington arrives at Wembley £60,000 richer after his second place in the grand prix in Calgary ten days ago — and will ride It's Otto in the grand prix on Sunday night and either the Daewoo championship or the Martin Collins leading showjumper on Saturday.

Other leading showjumpers competing for a share in the £122,000 prize-money fund include Nick Skelton, Tim Stockdale and James Fisher. With a full range of showing classes, and displays such as the Spillers Pony Club Mounted Games, the Musical Drive of the Heavy Horses and a dressage *pas de deux*, the organisers hope that the show's variety will prove to be a winning formula once again.

John Whitaker: dual role

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

HANDSEL

(b) To give handsel to (a person). To present with, give, or offer, something auspicious at the commencement of the year or day, the beginning of an enterprise. To present with earnest-money or a luck-penny in auspication of an engagement or bargain. From the Old English *handselen* glossed "mancipatio", giving into the hands of another. "When I was at school, the custom of handselling the master on Handsel Monday still flourished in Scotland."

JINN

(a) In Mohammedan demonology, an order of spirits lower than the angels, said to have the power of appearing in human and animal forms, and to exercise supernatural influence over men. From the Arabic collective plural for demons, spirits, angels. In Arabic the singular is *jinnī*. In English commonly *a jinn*. "The species of Jinn is said to have been created some thousands of years before Adam."

HICKSITE

(c) A member of a seceding body of American Quakers, founded by Elias Hicks in 1827, and holding Socinian doctrines. "A few spectators, mostly of the Hicksite division of Friends, were present, in broad brims and plain bonnets."

HASARD

(a) Grey-haired or hoary. A man with grey hair. Scottish from Old English *hasu, haswe* grey, ash-coloured. "Oversett with hasart hayr and faynt dotage."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qh6! Rg8 (Black can try 1 ... Qxd4+ or 1 ... Qe1+ but they don't disturb White's idea) 2 Qxh7+! Kxh7 3 Rh5 checkmate

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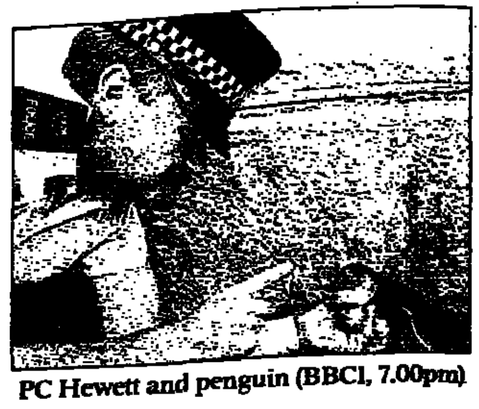
TELEVISION CHOICE

The penguins are coming!

Animal People: A Penguin in the House
BBC1 7.00pm

Peter Sallis, the narrator, gives a whimsical account of an "invasion" currently taking place in New Zealand. "Something very strange is happening in the suburbs of Wellington," he says darkly — but his mock-menace is contradicted by the sight of just what is "invading". The Little Blue Penguin is endearing and for the most part Wellingtonians are putting up with finding whole families nesting in their garages, on their rooftops, even under their sofas. Human beings have urbanised their once deserted beach habitats and the penguins are on the march, or rather scuttle — dodging traffic and getting bandages and anti-stress medication in seaside sanctuaries.



PC Hewett and penguin (BBC1, 7.00pm)

Crime Beat: Drugs War
BBC1, 8.00pm

Martyn Lewis, juggling a kilo of heroin, begins his new series in top form, placing the current position of law enforcers against drugs in sharp perspective. In the six instances chosen it would appear the drugs-busters are winning. Scotland, says a Customs and Excise officer, "is loved by dealers for its remote coastline" but there is tense, murky footage of the customs officers cornering a delivery from Africa and the world-beating statistic of Scottish addicts injecting at the rate of ten thousand a day has dropped to 8,500. Sixty-five per cent of burglaries can be blamed on drug-takers, but in Plymouth Lewis finds a "fast track" scheme of rehabilitation rather than prison which seems to be working. In Nottinghamshire schoolchildren are advised by police before the drug culture can reach them and in London the once-notorious King's Cross area has been cleaned up.

Survival Special: Cuddly Sharks
ITV, 8.00pm

First there was *Jaws*, dramatising what we already believed about man-eating sharks. Then there was the backlash ... a splash of documentaries insisting that most sharks aren't interested in people and wouldn't dream of spoiling their holidays by eating them. Recently we saw a repeat of David Attenborough's brilliant documentary on the Great White — "an awesome killing machine" — but far keener on elephant seals than human swimmers and surfers. This equally vivid film looks at the Great White off California and the Tiger Shark off Hawaii and comes to much the same conclusions. But you will still shiver at the recollections of badly scarred surfers who survived attacks and the stomach-churning Tiger Shark raid on a colony of young albatross trying to take off from the water for the first time. Fat chance.

The Ebb Tide
ITV, 9.00pm and 10.40pm

Robert Louis Stevenson may have inspired this turn-of-the-century saga of the high seas but he certainly didn't write dialogue like "in your dreams, sunshine", "from where I'm standing" and "you got a problem with that?" If you remember the story from your schooldays you will recall that it strikes a mystical chord: a plague ship, bodies still on her, drops anchor off a remote Caribbean island where three derelict human beings — Chisholm (Robbie Coltrane, no less), Swanson (Steven Mackintosh) and Bunch (Chris Barnes) — agree to take her on to her destination, Australia, with a mystery cargo on board. When the men discover what the cargo is they get roaring drunk, nearly kill each other and are eventually storm-tossed on to another tropical island deserted but for an apparent madman named Ellstrom (Nigel Terry). Ellstrom has pearls by the bucketful to bargain for what he wants. ***Elizabeth Cowley***

RADIO CHOICE

A Time To Heal
Radio 2, times vary

Radio 2 has become adept over the past few years at theming programmes which set out to help people with a particular problem, without excluding those who may be interested in the subject but have no direct need of help at a that time. The subject this week is bereavement and there are programmes at various times over the next three days. The main presenter for the season is Patricia Hodge, the actress, and the twin aims are to give the bereaved emotional support of the kind those closest to the deceased often lack and to offer the practical help which most people do not realise they need until a family death actually occurs. There is a free 24-hour helpline on 0800 022 022.

Night Waves
Radio 3, 10.45pm

The lively and informative arts programme goes all philosophical on its listeners tonight. The cause of this departure is a book by Felipe Fernandez Armesto called *Truth: A History and Guide for the Perplexed*. This sounds like an ambitious work, to say the least of it, but the book provides Humphrey Carpenter with a decent excuse to ask if mankind's assumption that there is such a thing as undisputed truth has been dumped in modern times. Of course the question begs another, which is whether we ever really believed in absolute truth. The other main item tonight, another way of pursuing the truth, it could be said, concerns political satirists, linked to a new exhibition of Hogarth drawings. ***Peter Barnard***

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. Includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Trade Update with Clare McDonnell **8.40** John Peel. Includes five session tracks by Stereolab **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

A Time to Heal. See Choice

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Folk on 2 **9.00** The Christy Moore Story. An insight into the life of the Irish singer-songwriter. With contributions from Mary Coughlan, Mike Harding and David Lunny **9.30** Talking Comedy. Jenny Eclair talks about what makes her laugh (r) **10.00** Steve Wright Picture Show **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **1.00** The CMA Awards Live from the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville. Hosted by Vince Gill **4.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine with Brian Hayes **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson **7.35** Football Night Live commentary on the Premier Division clash between Kilmarnock and Rangers. Plus, reports from the Premiership and news from the second round of the Coca-Cola Cup **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours with Paul Herriott and Sheila McClennon **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp **5.00** Morning Reports

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime with Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** World Today **7.30** Sports International **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Meridian Live **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Opera of the Week **10.00** News **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** Farming World **10.30** Science File **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** One Planet **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Sports International **1.00** News; News in German (648 only) **1.05** World Business Report **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Waveguide **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Megamix **4.00** News **4.05** Sport **4.15** Performance **4.30** Everywoman; News in German (648 only) **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.15** World Today **6.30** From Our Own Correspondent, News in German (648 only) **6.45** Sport **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** The Works **8.00** News **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Multitrack X-Press **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** On Screen **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.00** News **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Multitrack X-Press **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** From Our Own Correspondent **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Omnibus **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Meridian Books **4.00** News **4.05** World Business Report **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsdesk **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour **2.00** Concerto. Salieri (Flute and Oboe Concerto) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Devienne (Flute Sonata No 2 in C) **8.00** Evening Concert. J.S. Bach (Toccata and Fugue in D minor); C.P.E. Bach (Trio Sonata in B flat); Grechaninov (Piano Trio No 1); Puccini (O Soave Fanciulla, La Boheme); Bruch (Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ and Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Nick Abbot **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Chopin (Polonaise in A flat, Eroica), Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor); Biber (Battalia a 10); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor); Wagner (Ride of the Valkyries); Puccini (The Farewell, La Rondine)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 1 in F); Grieg (Lyric Pieces); Marais (Sonnerie de Sainte Genevieve du Mont-du-Paris); Bizet (Au Fond du Temple Saint, Pearl Fishers); Korngold (Suite: Much Ado about Nothing)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nicola Heywood-Thomas. Includes Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 3 in E minor); Schumann (Gretchen vor dem Bild der Mater Dolorosa, Scene from Goethe's Faust); Duruflé (Four Motets); Debussy (Cello Sonata in D minor); Borodin (Symphony No 2 in B minor); Beethoven (Eroica Variations); Verdi (Tol Qui Sus le Néant des Grandeurs de ce Monde, Don Carlos)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Pizzetti
1.00pm Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Noriko Ogawa, piano. Rachmaninov (Preludes, Op 23: No 4 in D; No 5 in G minor; No 6 in E flat); Shukichi Mitsukuri (Night Rhapsody; Sakkura); Chopin (Piano Sonata No 3 in B minor)
2.00 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe. Telephone 0171-765 4308 with your requests
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from Wells Cathedral
5.00 In Tune, with Sean Rafferty. Includes *Fairy Tales* by Janacek and *A Late Lark* by Delius
7.30 Performance on 3. David Lloyd, Irene Williamson, Ian Fisher and Daniel Edwards, horns, Robert Court, organ, Vale of Glamorgan Youth Choir, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tonu Kaljuste. Peteris Vasks (Cantabile for String Orchestra); Veljo Tormis (The Bishop and the Pagan for Vocal Ensemble); Bronius Kutavicius (Last Pagan Rites for Chorus, Organ and Horns); Urmas Sisask (Deo Gracias, Gloria Patri); Arvo Part (Te Deum)
8.55 Postscript. To mark 100 years since the author's birth, Ron Berglas reads *Barn Burning* by William Faulkner (3/5)
9.15 Handel's Organ. Timothy Roberts plays the organ of St Lawrence Whitchurch, Little Stanmore, an instrument once played by the composer Handel (Concerto in B flat); John Bennett (Voluntary in G minor); Handel (Concerto in G minor); Bennett (Voluntary in F) (r)
10.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by Lowri Blake, cello, and Iwan Llewelyn-Jones, piano. Bach (Solo Cello Suite No 1 in G); Mendelssohn (Cello Sonata No 1 in B flat)
10.45 Night Waves. See Choice
11.30 Composer of the Week: Clementi (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather introduces the Savannah Jazz Band
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes **1.00** German Symphony Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy. With Elder Nebolsin, piano. Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor); Korngold (Symphony No 1)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.45** A Boy at the Hogarth Press. Jamie Glover reads Richard Kennedy's classic memoir (3/5) **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves and guests
10.00 News; The Windy Sea (FM). Tim Whewell continues his exploration of the countries bordering the Caspian Sea (2/4)
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with Bob Flowerdew, Nigel Colborn and Geoffrey Smith. Chaired by Eric Robson (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Eastern Mix. Philip Alsha's comedy drama starring Harmage Singh Kalirai, Kathryn Apanowicz and Annette Ken (2/6) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke at the Liberal Democrats' conference and James Cox in London
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Peggers and the Creelers, by Catherine Czerkawska. With Sybil Wintrope, Sheila Donald and Joey Cooper (2/3)
2.45 News; Letters from Here and There. Deborah Moggach recalls a recent trip to Goa (2/6)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini reviews the new films of the week, including *Contact*, starring Jodie Foster. Plus a look at rock stars turned actors
4.45 Short Story: Dying for Love, by Carol Shields. Read by Buffy Davies
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Round Britain Quiz (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Face the Facts, with John Waite and his team of investigators (2/8) (r)
7.45 The National Interest. MPs from opposing parties discuss the enormous problem of funding the NHS (2/2)
8.45 Singular Women. The third of four comedies by Stewart Permutt in which four different women give their views of the world (3/4)
9.00 Action and Reaction. Sue Blackmore chairs a scientific debate at the Old Royal Observatory in Greenwich (2/5)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Jeremy Harris
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Loitering with Intent. Anna Massey reads Muriel Spark's comic novel (3/10)
11.00 On Baby Street. A comedy drama about three new mothers living in the same street, written by Julie Balloo and Jenny Eclair. With Frances Barber and Claire Skinner. (4/5)
11.30 The Cheese Shop Present. Sketches, songs and jokes (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Light in August, by William Faulkner, abridged by John Hartley and read by Ed Bishop (3/12)
12.48 Shipping Forecast (LW)
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am); **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الاصل

Troubles, war or terrorism: take your pick

I remember once, in the 1980s when the Saturday evening television news invariably started with some post-match punch-up or other, reading a *sociologically minded* piece in one of the papers pointing out that however mean they looked and talked, the various groups of bootboys weren't entirely serious about their crippling and maiming. If you looked at the statistics, said the theorist, you'd see that hardly anyone was seriously injured let alone killed and that, given that gang warfare was taking place in most towns with a first division team most weekends, this must suggest some sort of restraint on the part of the lads.

I admit to the same sort of thought, although less worthily, I'll *grant you, a few minutes into* the first of the excellent **Provos** (BBC1). This was, everyone kept reminding us, a war. The Provisional IRA said it was a war and the British Army said that, although they weren't treating it as a war, they understood in which way the IRA was.

And yet, in getting on for 30 years of warfare, and of warfare set in an age when mass destruction was easier and cheaper than ever before, 1,800 civilians, soldiers and IRA activists had been killed. I hesitate to say "only 1,800" because, among the innocent at least, each one of the number is a loss too great; but still, a war which kills 60 or so a year suggests something other than the total warfare which the IRA has always claimed was its aim.

Is the IRA like the football bootboys, then, holding back when it comes to the big kick, or is the relatively low mortality rate indic*ative of something* else? Ineptitude, for instance?

The fighting we see in Northern Ireland on the news looks like any other urban European fighting: there have been times when the smoky morning-after haze over Londonderry hasn't been much different from that over bits of Bosnia. But while the news has always taken the government line that this is not to be considered in terms of warfare, *Provos* allowed the IRA its military conceit without necessarily accepting it.

Behind the haze, though, were — still are — the men speaking to Peter Taylor's camera, many of *them for the first time.*

When the episode started, in the late 1960s, the IRA — the "official" IRA as it was soon to become — was a moribund hangover from the Troubles of 40 years earlier, a theorising civil rights movement loath to do anything to protect the *London*derry Roman Catholics against the triumphalist Protestants in a time when it was easy to see the city as our own Mobile or Montgomery.

REVIEW

John Diamond

As far as the IRA was concerned, said the voiceover: "Protecting Catholics was a sectarian act."

The IRA volunteers of the years to come were then small boys, cheering the British soldiers marching in to do the job of protecting the Catholic majority. Most of them, said one, wanted to become soldiers themselves. Indeed, many of them did for when, a short while later the IRA split into the pacifist Officials and the war-mongering Provisionals, it was the same boys who joined up.

In the archive footage of the time they are thin-faced, streetwise youths, all Bri-Nylon shirt under cheap fatigues, learning to strip down ancient small arms in anonymous kitchens. These were the days when television reporters could film such things and interview Provisional IRA leaders with no suggestion that these were *harmless political spokesmen:* we saw them answering questions about the self-proclaimed war in a way that, even since the dropping of the proscription against Sinn Fein interviews, we never see now.

Thirty years on, many of them spent in jail for bombing and shooting (and no IRA nostalgist appears without *his* prosecuted crimes listed in his on-screen caption), they are ruddy-faced, middle-aged and elderly men in patterned woollies and leisure suits, asserting, with the conservatism of the middle-aged, that sectarian violence isn't what it was.

The reminiscences of the start of the fighting version of the modern IRA were of a strictly amateur outfit, picking up ancient weapons where they could, parading like some angry Dad's Army troop, equipped with Molotov cocktails and old Brownings and with the force of anti-British rage making up for the missing ordnance.

Even when they started casting around for proper weaponry there was something rag-tag and Sean O'Casey about it all, with weapons being smuggled in by the dozen from America on the *QE2*, and FBI footage of republicans desperate to buy a weapon which *could* bring down a British helicopter.

They prosecuted their war, and they maimed and they killed, but as often as *not* they killed the wrong people, or at the wrong time; their great orators said the wrong thing, their bombs took out their own people.

The series is right to start with the arrival of the troops in 1969, for other analyses of the Irish situation have suffered by being stretched to cover everything from the Famine onwards. But the missing chronological context both points up the fact that this is a war fought in ancient history (not to say mythology) and that this is as comprehensible a conflict to those of us outside it as is that of the Tutsis and the Hutus in Burundi.

There will be complaints. I'm certain, that in not devoting his time to demonising the terrorists, Taylor is in some way giving them support. He isn't. But at a time when the Government is *talking* to those who talk to the IRA, he is giving the rest of us a chance to understand what the fighting has been about for all these years.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (77231)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (98716163)
9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (2654960)
9.30 Style Challenge The experts give four mounted policewomen a complete makeover (1492960)
9.55 Kilroy (T) (5441521)
10.35 Change That *(1531347)*
11.00 News (T) and weather (4803415)
11.05 Liberal Democrat Party Conference Featuring a debate on health policies (27426250)
1.00pm News (T) and weather (82076)
1.30 Regional News (T) (17451415)
1.40 The Weather Show (87316328)
1.45 Neighbours *(T) (77194908)*
2.10 Quincy (r) (2994417)
3.00 Through the Keyhole (7873)
3.30 Playdays (8120163) **3.50** ChuckleVision (8140927) **4.10** Get Your Own Back (4634453) **4.35** Out of Tune (6628892) **5.00** Newsround (T) (9030328) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (5929724)
5.35 Neighbours *(r) (T) (665705)*
6.00 News (T) and weather (811)
6.30 Regional News (T) (163)
7.00 CHOICE **Animal People** Peter Sallis narrates a look at the world of New Zealand's penguins, allowing viewers to eavesdrop as they sneak into local discos, wake neighbours with their noise and drive people-bonkers with their awful smell (T) (2182)
7.30 Tomorrow's World Philippa Forrester inspects the most technologically advanced gun yet invented, capable of firing more than a million rounds of ammunition a minute. Jez Nelson reports on a security camera that can detect smoke and act as a fire alarm (T) (347)
8.00 CHOICE **Crime *Beat:* Drugs War** Martyn Lewis presents real-life police action (T) (8502)
8.30 The National Lottery Live Carol Smillie presents the draw; singer Deni Hines performs (810076)
8.45 Points of View (T)(178502)
8.55 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (T) *(544540)*
9.00 News (T) and weather (6989)
9.29 National Lottery Update (508908)
9.30 The X Files: Teliko Scully is her usual sceptical self when Mulder blames a mythical African creature for the deaths of several black men whose skin has been drained of pigment (T) (815908)
10.15 Chalk Education officer Archie Munt visits the school to investigate a financial irregularity (T) (330076)
10.45 Match of the Day: Manchester United v Chelsea Desmond Lynam presents highlights of tonight's FA Premiership encounter between the reigning champions and last season's FA Cup winners (T) (3536279)
11.50 Assassination (*1987*) *Charles Bronson* FILM stars as a veteran secret service agent enlisted to protect the American President's wife from would-be assassins. Directed by Peter Hunt (187927)
1.15am Weather (4983090)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Database Developments (4431163) **6.25** Being Objective (4450298) **6.50** The Emergence of Greek Mathematics (5258298)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (4398618)
7.30 The Adventures of Skippy *(6489095)* **7.55** The Really Wild Show (r) (T) (5484873) **8.20** Penny Crayon (7299219) **8.25** Tales of Aesop (7141927) **8.35** Teletubbies (1066163) **9.00** Cartoon (4896811)
9.10 What? Where? When? Why? (4883347) **9.25** English Express (3859453) **9.45** Words and Pictures (9588989) **10.00** *Teletubbies (74569)* **10.30** Numbertime (3790892) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (3795347) **11.00** Around Scotland (2036057) **11.20** The Geography Programme (9001434) **11.40** *Revista* (7309182) **11.55** Quinze Minutes Plus (8023076) **12.10pm** Isabel (1282908)
12.30 Working Lunch (40415) **1.00** Noddy (r) **1.10** The Craft Hour (1880304) **2.10** News (T) (32843786)
2.15 Liberal Democrat Party Conference Paddy Ashdown addresses the conference (955279)
3.55 News (T) and weather (6999892) **4.00** Ready, Steady, Cook Cookery (796) **4.30** Going, Going, Gone (6627163) **4.55** Esther: servants in the 1990s (r) *(5477694)* ***5.30*** *Today's the Day (540)*
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (r) (T) (419250)
6.45 Conference Talk (641182)

Actress Juliet Stevenson (7.30pm)

7.30 Conjuring Shakespeare Investigation into Shakespeare's gender bias with *comment from* Juliet Stevenson and Fiona Shaw (T) (989)
8.00 University Challenge Exeter University v Robinson College, Cambridge (T) (6144)
8.30 The Antiques Show An aristocratic car boot sale, antique textiles, the rising value of old jeans and barometers (T) (5279)
9.00 The Nazis: A Warning from History (3/6) What led the Fuhrer into conflict with Great Britain? (T) (532637)
9.50 Behind the Lines Last in series (T) (484989)
10.00 Party Political Broadcast by Labour Party (T) (14502)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (902328)
11.20 Over the Edge (763521)
11.50 The X Philes *(527076)* **12.00** Weather **12.05am** Duckman (3311309)
12.30 Learning Zone: Shaping Up (98090) **1.00** Projecting Visions (39534) **1.30** What You Never Knew About Sex (18903) **2.00** Teaching Today (95212) **4.00** Dyslexia (55854) **5.00** Heart Health (69651) **5.30** A Shadow from the Past (29458)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7204279)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (2650144)
9.55 Regional News (1117705)
10.00 The Time, the Place (61095)
10.30 This Morning (18925908)
12.20pm Regional News (6362521)
12.30 News (T) and weather (9550786)
12.55 Shortland Street (9568705) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (58292386) **1.50** Remote Control Cooking (T) (77100569) **2.20** Vanessa (T) (75410250) **2.50** The Natural Health Show (6879279)
3.20 News (T) (4899811)
3.25 Regional News (4898182)
3.30 Tots TV (r) (1555328) **3.40** The Parkies *(7381960)* ***3.50*** *The New Adventures of* Winnie the Pooh (r) (6974231) **4.20** Extreme Ghostbusters (T) (4625705) **4.45** It's a Mystery (T) (6619144)
5.10 WALES: Primetime Diary with Mal Pope (2467960)
5.10 Yan Can Cook: The Wonders of the World (2467960)
5.40 News (T) and weather (831811)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (899618)
6.25 HTV Weather (138144)
6.30 HTV News (T) (231)
7.00 Emmerdale Alex turns up at James's birthday party bearing gifts (T) (7250)
7.30 Coronation Street The police pay Sally a visit (T) (415)
8.00 CHOICE **Survival Special: Cuddly Sharks** Exploring the idea that sharks may mistake people for seals or turtles (T) Includes the Lottery result (8095)

Robbie Coltrane at sea (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **The Ebb Tide** Dramatic tale *of three escapers* who brave *the South Seas on a plague-infested* ship. With Robbie Coltrane, Steven Mackintosh and Chris Barnes. **Continues after the News** (T) (8231)
10.00 News at Ten (T), Lottery result and weather (18328)
10.30 Regional News (T) (310453)
10.40 The Ebb Tide Concluded (T) (478786)
11.40 WALES: Alice *The changing cultural* face of Europe (T) (337250)
11.40 Hunter: Double Exposure (r) (337250)
12.40am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (3712835)
1.10 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (4505057)
1.35 The Swiss Conspiracy (1975) with FILM David Janssen as a private eye investigating the blackmailing of customers at a Swiss bank. Directed by Jack Arnold (206651)
3.10 Jones and Jury (r) (44190748) **3.30** F1: Austrian Grand Prix (r) (T) (2017903) **4.25** Sound Bites (64694729) **4.30** The Time, the Place (r) (87545) **5.00** Coronation Street (r) (T) (63477) **5.30** News (49212)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9568705)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2467960)
6.25-7.00 Central News (933415)
11.40 Film: Old Gringo (1989). A drama, set at the time of the Mexican Revolution, starring Jane Fonda, Gregory Peck and Jimmy Smits. Directed by Luis Puenzo (44436892)
1.55am The Elvis Auction (2305496)
2.50 In Focus (2686583)
3.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (240477)
5.20 Asian Eye (1017274)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6362521)
12.55 Home and Away (4290618)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (78592917)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2467960)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (45960)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2467960)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (279)
6.30-7.00 The Village (231)
11.40 Highlander (337250)
5.00am Freescreen (63477)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6358328)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9568705)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2467960)
6.23 Anglia Weather (139873)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (933415)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (726637)
11.40 In Suspicious Circumstances (337250)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (38397)
9.00 Schools (326786)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (3892)
12.00 Sesame Street (48569)
12.30pm Baby Baby (68811)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (83731989)
1.15 Tic Toc (83729144)
1.30 The Legend of White Fang (67182)
2.00 *Conference* Report: The Leader's Speech (10095)
3.30 The Living Sea (637)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (144)
4.30 Stones of the Raj (328)
5.00 5 Pump (5838182)
5.15 Ffeil (9035873)
5.30 Countdown (908)
6.00 Newyddion (268724)
6.10 Heno (424182)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (536057)
7.25 Ffermio (480322)
8.00 Gwaith Cartref (4540)
8.30 Newyddion (6237)
9.00 Equinox (6873)
10.00 Brookside *(242298)*
10.35 Babylon 5 (489892)
11.30 Cybill (191386)
11.55 Cybill (941683)
12.20am Under the Moon (44893274)
4.30 Board Stupid (85187)
5.00-5.30 Screaming Reels (61019)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (94499)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (38397)
9.00 Schools: Making Sense of Science (28705) **9.30** Good Health (T) (9578502) **9.45** Book Box (T) (9573057) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) (7682182) **10.15** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (7672705) **10.30** The Jacobites (T) (8969569) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (1786786) **11.00** First Edition IV (9092786) **11.15** The Mix (T) (9015637)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier Herbed chicken; salad of lamb; mixed berry tart (T) (3892)
12.00 Sesame Street (48569)
12.30pm Baby Baby Swimming for children and post-natal hair care (68811)
1.00 Light Lunch (r) (63366)
2.00 Conference Report: The Leader's Speech Paddy Ashdown, MP, addresses the Liberal Democrats' annual conference. With on-screen signing (10095)
3.30 The Living Sea How technology is used to capture the wonders of the oceans (r) (T) (637)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (144)
4.30 Countdown (T) (6612231)
4.55 Ricki Lake The appeal of working-class men (T) (2344142)
5.30 Absolutely Animals (r) (T) (908)
6.00 The Cosby Show When Rudy refuses to learn the violin, preferring her friend Kim's cymbals, Cliff and Clair are summoned to meet Rudy's teacher (r) (T) (521)
6.30 Roseanne Darlene and Roseanne are constantly arguing. Then Darlene has appendicitis and Roseanne decides to be nicer to her daughter (r) (T) (873)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) Includes headlines and weather at **7.30** (437076)
7.50 Music of the Millennium Lisa Stansfield's favourite music (951160)
8.00 Brookside Can Susannah admit her real fears to Max? And will Tinhead receive his comeuppance? (T) (4540)
8.30 Out of Africa: The Weaver's Tale A look at weaver birds in the arid thorn scrub of Etosha National Park in southwest Africa (T) (6237)

William Hurt stars (9.00pm)

9.00 Broadcast News (1987) William Hurt, FILM Holly Hunter, Albert Brooks and Jack Nicholson star in this amusing tale of fear, rivalry and love in the Washington office of a network television station. Directed by James L. Brooks (T) (40392279)
11.25 Babylon 5 Sheridan clashes with Garibaldi (T) (728453)
12.20am Under the Moon Sports magazine presented by Danny Kelly (44893274)
4.30 Board Stupid Snowboarding (r) (85187)
5.00 Screaming Reels Angling (r) (T) (61019)
5.30 Film and Video Showcase Young directors' new work (7464038)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: ***7.02 and 7.20 MHz***

6.00am 5 News Early (7006076)
7.30 USA High (r) (5260057)
8.00 Havakazoo (7811219)
8.30 WideWorld Documentary series on the business world (11/15) (2766160)
9.00 Espresso (7548521) **10.00** Exclusive (r) *(6729076)*
10.30 Treasure Islands The Seychelles island of Cousin, a bird sanctuary (r) (T) (8366304)
11.00 Leeza Chat show (1166182)
11.50 Double Espresso (69495298)
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (4661796)
12.30pm Family Affairs *(r) (T) (9675076)*
1.00 5 News Update (85749298) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (8341250) **2.00** 5's Company (8312811)
3.30 Stromboli (1950, b/w) with Ingrid FILM Bergman and Mario Vitale. A drama about a Second World War refugee who marries a fisherman in order to escape internment. Directed by Roberto Rossellini (7000892)
5.30 Move on Up (T) (9891453)
6.00 100 Per Cent (9898366)
6.30 Family Affairs Elsa reveals all about Bill to Jack (T) (9889618)

Model Cindy Crawford (7.00pm)

7.00 Exclusive In a feature on celebrity *addictions, Cindy Crawford reveals her* love of golf (8861989)
7.30 Dragon's Tale: Elephant's Eye View A visit to Nepal's Chitawan National Park, home to elephants, tigers and rhinos (T) (9878502)
8.00 Instant Gardens William Van Hage and his team complete their makeover of a Bristol garden (8870637)
8.30 5 News (T) (8859144)
9.00 My Son Is Innocent (1996) with Marilu FILM Henner, Nick Stahl and Andrew Robinson. A courtroom drama about a devoted mother who hires a top attorney when her son is falsely accused of rape. Larry Elikan directs (96246927)
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show (9573144)
11.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H *(7309960)*
12.25am Live and Dangerous with Simon Potter and Todd Macklin. Includes live *baseball from the US Major League* (13569670)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (T) (6394922)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7503458)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see Vision, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

[illegible]

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

[illegible]

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

[illegible]

SKY MOVIES GOLD

[illegible]

TNT

[illegible]

SKY SPORTS 1

[illegible]

SKY SPORTS 2

[illegible]

SKY SPORTS 3

[illegible]

EUROSPORT

[illegible]

UK GOLD

[illegible]

GRANADA PLUS

[illegible]

Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman (Sky Movies, 11.45am, 7.00pm)

[illegible]

DISNEY CHANNEL

[illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

[illegible]

TCC

[illegible]

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

[illegible]

TROUBLE

[illegible]

BRAVO

[illegible]

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

[illegible]

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

[illegible]

HOME & LEISURE

[illegible]

DISCOVERY

[illegible]

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

[illegible]

CHALLENGE TV

[illegible]

UK LIVING

[illegible]

ZEE TV

[illegible]

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

SPEEDWAY 45
Elder statesman defies odds to reach landmark

SPORT

FOOTBALL 49
Given achieves his goal at St James' Park

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1997

Course provides demanding challenge for Ryder Cup rivals

Teams negotiate learning curve

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
AT VALDERRAMA

THE talk subsided here yesterday and was replaced by the crack of club on ball as first Europe and then the United States began to familiarise themselves with the routes and rhythms of the Continent's most distinctive golf course. There is plenty for the competitors in the Ryder Cup to learn about Valderrama.

At this course, not far from Gibraltar, there are cork trees overhanging greens and in bunkers, as well as one slap bang in the middle of a fairway. This is not to mention tiny shards of crushed granite in the bunkers that give off a dazzling light.

Hardly had darkness lifted than Thomas Bjorn was expressing the mood of the 24 competitors, newcomers and old hands alike. "It's a great feeling to be here at last," Bjorn, who is making his debut, said. "It has been a long way to get here. This is where we want to be. We want to get on with it. There's no running home to mum now."

Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain, paired each rookie with a player who has appeared in at least one Ryder Cup. Nick Faldo and Ignacio Garrido halved with the Swedes, Per-Ulrik Johansson and Jesper Parnevik. José Maria Olazábal and Costantino Rocca beat Darren Clarke and Colin Montgomerie 3 and 2, and Bjorn and Bernhard Langer were five up after eight holes against Ian Woosnam and Lee Westwood and eventually won 2 and 1.

Ballesteros made light of having had only four hours' sleep and moved around happily in a buggy. He liked what he saw. Even when he came across Woosnam in the trees he made a joke of it. "What are you doing here?" he asked. "You're playing like me."

Considerable time was spent on the 4th and the 17th, the more teasing of the three par-fives. A westerly wind was blowing, making the 4th downwind, and though the green is protected by a waterfall to the right and one bunker which has a tree in it to the left, Clarke could not resist the temptation to go for it.

He hit a two-iron and reached the putting surface. This is big hitting on a 535-yard hole, but not as big as Tiger Woods, who some hours later smashed his ball onto the green with a five-iron. His ball ended 12 feet from the flag.

The 17th was more troublesome. Montgomerie has described it as the worst hole in Europe, which could be interpreted as irreverence as it was partly designed by Ballesteros. There is a strip of rough running across the fairway 290 yards from the tee, and the green, which slopes from back to front, is subtly contoured. If that is not enough, there is a pond in front of the green, which attracts golf balls as moths are drawn to a candle.

Mark O'Meara is not a great one for stretches of rough across the middle of the fairway and when his ball trickled onto the green and got caught in a gully that swept it down into the sentinel pond, he did not care much for that, either. "The course is in perfect condition," O'Meara said. "Playing from the fairways is like hitting off carpets." But he questioned the need for gimmicks.

Last Sunday, Olazábal was downcast about his golf. Everything was wrong with it, he said, and the safest place for his mother to watch him from this week would be the middle of the fairway. Ballesteros grinned when he heard reports that Olazábal was playing badly. "José Maria was not very good today," Ballesteros said, with heavy sarcasm. "He was only about five under par after eight holes."

John Jacobs, the Europe captain in 1979 and 1981, is the man who helps Olazábal with his swing. Jacobs kept an eye on him for most of his round. "I watched him and he played beautifully," Jacobs reported, a smile on his face as if he had heard Olazábal talk that way before. "He gets very down on himself. He can be a bloody awful putter, except on really fast greens, but there is nothing wrong with him."

Ballesteros has shuffled most of his players slightly for practice today. Bjorn moves to partner Montgomerie and Garrido and Clarke, two rookies, will have a trial run together. Faldo will play with Westwood and Langer with Woosnam. "There is no great secret to doing the pairings," Ballesteros said. "I try to make sure they feel comfortable with one another, are relaxed, full of confidence."

The most confident pair at Valderrama last night were Tom Lehman and Phil Mickelson, who had played Jim Furyk and Jeff Maggert. Lehman was asked what he thought of the course he saw for the first time this week. "I liked it a lot today," the former Open champion said. "I got paid. We took $120 from Furyk and Maggert."

Woods, the American who produced some massive hitting on the first day of practice, plays to the 10th yesterday. Photograph: Steve Munday/Allsport

RYDER CUP '97

Lynne Truss 50

Unhappy Brive set for warm welcome

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

PONTYPRIDD will play their Heineken Cup match with Brive, the holders, at Sardis Road on Saturday, knowing that their every action will be under the microscope. "It would be extremely damaging to Pontypridd if there is trouble," Eddie Jones, the Welsh club's rugby manager, said. "It could finish us."

It is a message that Pontypridd will try to drum home to their supporters after they and Brive were each fined £30,000 by the board of European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC), the tournament organisers. The fine, imposed after the violent confrontation between the clubs in Brive on September 14, has been split, half to be paid within 21 days and half at the end of the season, while Dale McIntosh, the No 8 sent off along with Lionel Mallier, of Brive, during the game, is to be charged with bringing the competition into disrepute.

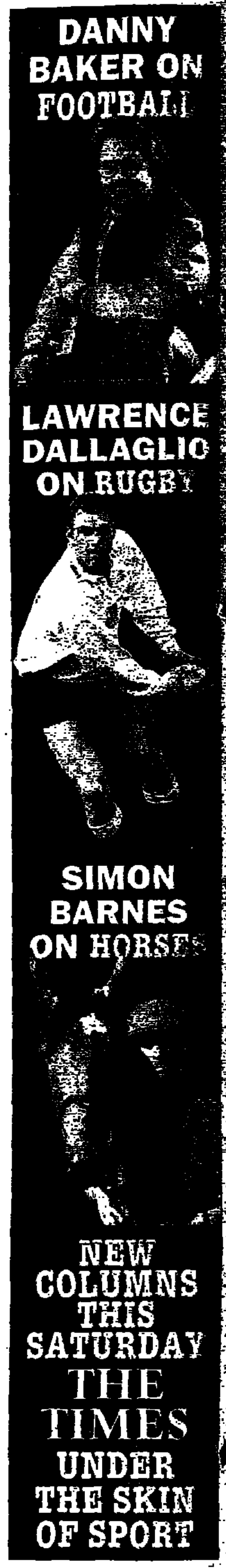
The reaction of Patrick Sebastien, the Brive president, was one of incredulity. "It is a shameful and disgusting decision," he said, accusing ERC of confusing violence on the pitch with the bar-room brawl between players and supporters that followed later the same night. However, he confirmed that his club would fulfil the fixture, though he will urge Brive supporters not to travel to Wales.

Pontypridd were more phlegmatic. "We accept the findings of the ERC panel," Cenydd Thomas, the chief executive, and, like Jones, a former policeman, said. "We have been dealt with in the context of the match and we are delighted the return will be played at Sardis Road.

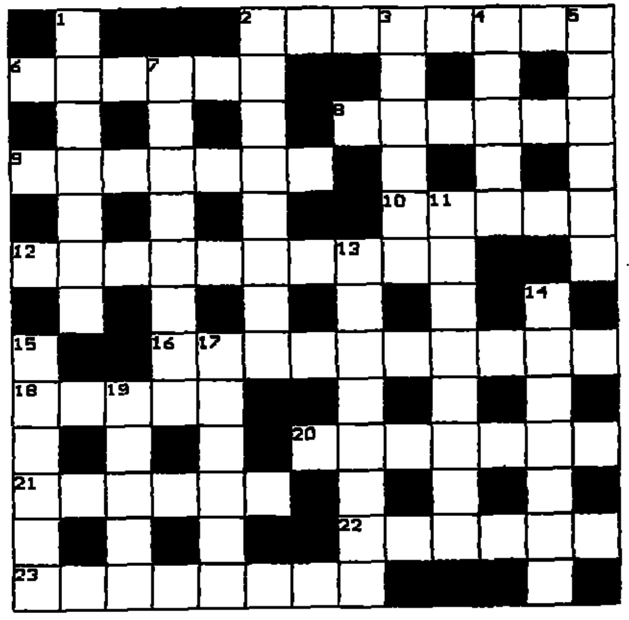
"That would have been the most unfair punishment of all if they had decided the game should be played at an alternative venue. There will be a sensible level of policing, allied to efficient stewarding."

Both clubs realise just how serious any repetition of violence, on or off the field, could be. "To be expelled from the tournament would be a massive blow, not just financially but in terms of our credibility," Jones said.

It is not only the players who will be under scrutiny; the game on Saturday will be handled by Gordon Black, from Ireland, a referee who has yet to establish a reputation in international terms.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1207

ACROSS
- 2 Of the Milky Way (8)
- 6 Bargain over price (6)
- 8 NT book after Acts (6)
- 9 Quakers (7)
- 10 Find answer to (problem) (5)
- 12 Fellow-citizens; rustics (10)
- 16 Spa. Gold Cup town (10)
- 18 Adorn: (troop) battle-order (5)
- 20 (Fr.) sweet roll (7)
- 21 Altitude (6)
- 22 — Hitchcock, Lord Tennyson (6)
- 23 Contemptuous (8)

DOWN
- 1 Lover of own land (7)
- 2 Fr. policeman (8)
- 3 Evoke; stir up (6)
- 4 Be behind; rough track (5)
- 5 Jewel box (6)
- 7 Basque town, Picasso painting (8)
- 11 Occasionally (2,3,3)
- 13 Stuff; relevant (8)
- 14 Teller; expel in disgrace (7)
- 15 Anti-climax (6)
- 17 Punctuation in last clue (6)
- 19 *Indian* or *white* animal (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1206
ACROSS: 7 Beggar's Opera 9 Ailment 10 Gourd 11 Esau 12 Gyration 15 Heedless 17 Puff 19 Valet 21 Lourdes 22 If the cap fits
DOWN: 1 Tell-tale 2 Agley 3 Pretty 4 Congeal 5 Peru 6 Hard-and-fast 8 Take the veil 13 Inundate 14 Flutter 16 Salaam 18 Quiff 20 Lett

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Martin gives peace a chance

Mel Webb on an unexpected settlement to the dispute that divided Europe

IT WAS like the dance-hall from hell with added suitcases. Enthusiasm was thick in the warm Spanish air: business or pleasure was on people's minds as they moved through the steps of a stately if slightly disorganised gavotte in search of their luggage. And there, amid the hustle and bustle, sat a man who had had his invitation to the ball withdrawn. He was sitting this one out.

It was Monday evening at Malaga airport and the man with apparently no business, or pleasure, to look forward to was Miguel Angel Martin, and he cut a poignant figure as he guarded his suitcase.

The suitcase should have contained the polychrome regalia of one of the aristocrats of European golf: the uniform of the Ryder Cup player. For months Martin had expected to be a part of this, only for the frailties of his own body and the clinical and necessarily heartless decision of a committee to take it away.

Martin, a small, dark man from Huelva, close to the border with Portugal, was a picture of dejection as he watched the faces of the incoming passengers. They were smiling, and so, in other circumstances, would he have been, but there was not much room for cheer in his life. His body language was that of a man who did not quite know where he was, or what he was doing there.

Martin injured his wrist in July, had an operation and was then summarily dropped from the team after refusing to take a fitness test. At 35, he is an honest yeoman who has never been a contender for golf's great prizes, and the suspicion is that he knows that there might not be another chance. He had played his way into tenth place on the qualifying list, and if he was not to play, he would like to have made the decision for himself.

Martin: rapprochement

From there the matter took an ugly turn; lawyers were consulted on both sides, there was talk of litigation, spokesmen on the opposition benches almost refused, ostrich-like, to admit that he existed.

Severiano Ballesteros, the captain, who, when Martin challenged his exclusion, responded by saying with brutal honesty that Martin had not been welcome before and was certainly not welcome now, refused to speak of him on Monday.

When asked again yesterday to comment on the matter, he refused, stony-faced, to do so.

In the midst of such bitterness, there seemed no chance of a negotiated settlement when Martin went into a meeting yesterday afternoon with Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, Richard Hills, the Ryder Cup director, and Pedro Cardelus, the vice-president of the Spanish Golf Federation. They talked for an hour, and the resulting rapprochement was as unexpected as it was remarkable. Schofield, who will hold a press conference this morning, did not comment, but Martin did.

"It's over, and I am happy," he said. "I am here for the week: I am a member of the team. I'm even in the next room to Seve, and I will be going to see him straight away."

Cardelus, who was present on Martin's behalf, said: "Miguel is morally re-established in the team. He is now looking to the future and not the past." So he might be, but in these coming days Martin will be in the piece but not of it, a man without a mission beyond the waving of a flag.

Face has been saved on both sides, but Martin knows that the mere wearing of a blazer and a room next to the captain does not make him a member of a team from which he has been rejected and ejected. He has been let into the ballroom; but what is the point of that if he cannot dance?

Forest in plea for European place

BY ROB HUGHES

THERE is good news, and bad, for Nottingham Forest in their attempts to gain compensation for their defeat in the 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final when Anderlecht, their opponents, bribed the referee.

Former Forest players, including Steve Hodge and Paul Hart, who had a goal disallowed, will find that there is no legal action they can take for lost earnings in the criminal courts, either in Belgium or Switzerland, where Uefa has its headquarters. Neither country recognises "sporting fraud" as a crime.

However, Forest's lawyers believe that they can win in excess of £1.5 million in damages through civil court action, particularly now that Uefa has fully admitted that Anderlecht paid Guruceta Muro, the Spanish referee, about £20,000 after the second leg of the tie in which the Belgian club recovered from 2-0 down to win 3-2 on aggregate.

Yesterday, Uefa confirmed that Raymond De Deken, the club liaison officer who made the payment to the referee, is *persona non grata*, unwelcome at any level in football on the Continent. Constant Vanden Stock, the former Anderlecht chairman, who admitted in a civil court that he arranged the payment, is beyond Uefa reproach now that he is not in the game.

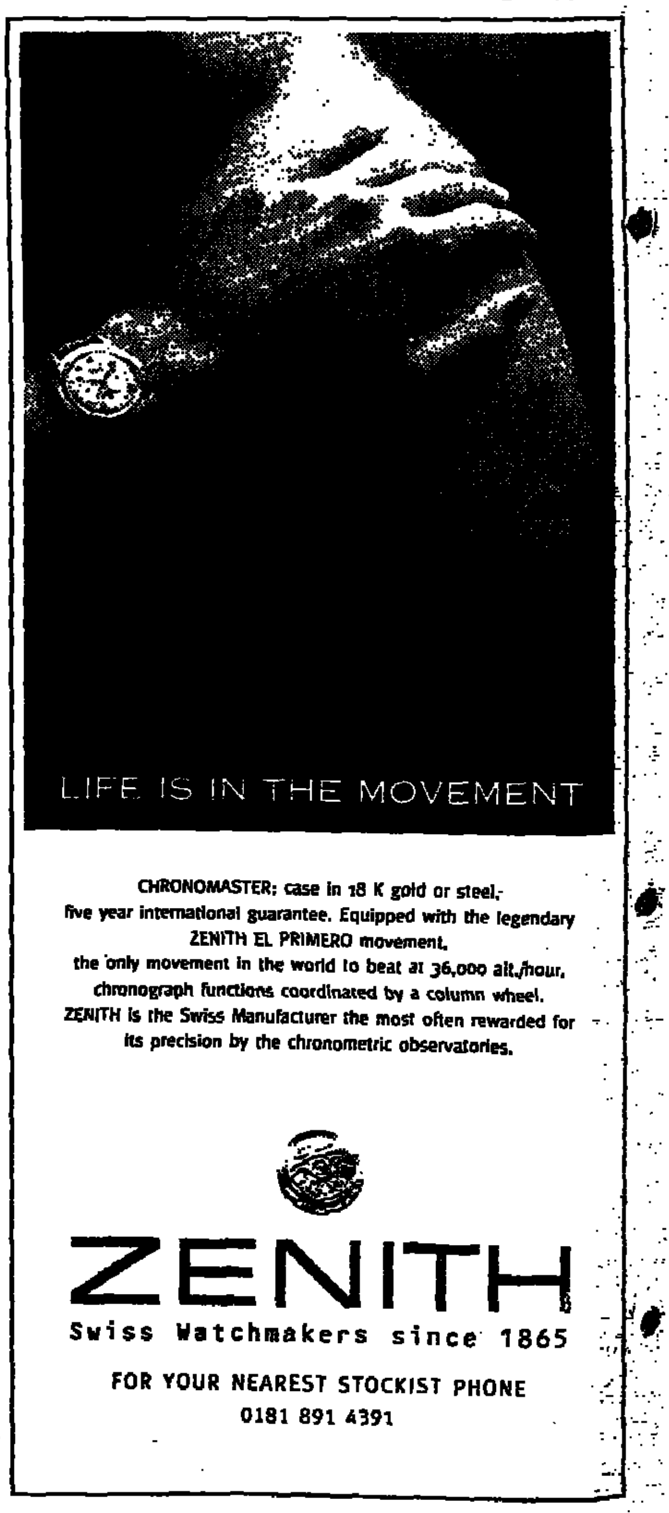
Anderlecht have been banned from the next European season for which they qualify and Forest yesterday came up with an inventive plea. They want to be granted the place of Anderlecht the next time that the Belgian club does qualify.

Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, admitted that the ban would victimise Belgian players who were not old enough to be involved in 1984. "As always, somebody suffers," Johansson said.

"But we think the ban is a fair one, it is not a legal punishment but an ethical and moral. It leaves us for the moment with the problem of Nottingham Forest; they are the victims."

Johansson is trying to discover why a package from the Belgian FA, addressed to him in 1992, was not handed to him until a few days ago. "We know about the bribery, we now have to clarify the internal situation at Uefa," he said.

Brian Glanville, page 48
Given's goal, page 49



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